Daily Report

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Democratic Party Chairman Calls General Strike

AU0304173091 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1600 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Armin Wolf report from Tirana]

[Text] After the clashes yesterday in Shkoder and Tirana, the situation today remains calm in all Albanian towns. Nowhere have there been any major demonstrations, not even in the capital city. It is raining, and there are hardly any people in the streets.

In Shkoder, in the north, the burial of the three people who were shot at a demonstration yesterday started in the afternoon. By telephone, a representative of the Democratic Party [PDSh] in Shkoder told ORF [Austrian Radio and Television Network] that tens of thousands of people gathered with the three coffins in the city center at 1600. All of Shkoder is out in the streets, the telephone report said. So far, the rally has been completely quiet, the police are far away, no soldiers or tanks have been seen, it was said.

PDSh Chairman Sali Berisha went to Shkoder to attend the burial. In a speech, Berisha tried to calm the enraged citizens in Shkoder. The Democrats want to ease tensions in the critical political situation in the country.

In a nationwide appeal today, the PDSh asked all citizens to refrain from holding any demonstrations so the forces of violence, as they were called, will not have any reason to intervene.

For tomorrow, the PDSh is calling for a general strike, in commemoration of the three dead in Shkoder. Bread factories, electricity and transportation workers, and hospitals should not participate in the general strike. Tomorrow evening, at 2100, all citizens should turn lights off for five minutes—as a sign of solidarity with the martyrs of democracy, as the appeal said.

Since the results of Sunday's elections became known, the applications for visas at the foreign embassies in Tirana have skyrocketed. According to the Greek ambassador, the Greek Embassy is receiving more than 2,000 applications per day.

On the other hand, the situation in the port city of Durres, from which most emigrants have left the country over the past few weeks, is completely calm. The port has been cordoned off by hundreds of soldiers and some tanks.

Government Views 'Tense Public Order Situation'

AU0304190291 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers today examined the tense public order situation created after the elections, especially the events in Shkoder, in which there were illegal gatherings of people and anarchist and terrorist acts. It instructed the bodies of justice and the organizations for the maintenance of order, in cooperation with the procurator general and the investigator general, to submit a detailed report on the course of events and to call to account those who had caused them.

In these difficult and highly important times, the Council of Ministers and all the state bodies have special responsibilities in carrying out the tasks entrusted to them by the joint meeting of the Presidium of the People's Assembly and the Presidential Council. These responsibilities are to ensure the necessary conditions to stabilize the economy and to return the country's social and economic life as soon as possible to a normal, parliamentary path in accordance with the will of the people expressed in the free and democratic elections of 31 March.

For this purpose, the Council of Ministers calls on everyone to respect law and order, to restore order and discipline everywhere, to return to work, to commit themselves to conciliation, calm, and national unity, and to not enter into one-sided activities urged by any political force. It is a time for work, not demonstrations, strikes, and illegal acts. It is a time to establish and strengthen the rule of law in defense of the people's interests in order to return to normal life and to ensure that the management of the state by the future parliament may begin as soon as possible.

The 31 March elections, the Council of Ministers stresses, were a vote of confidence in this working government. The government commits itself to responsible work and discipline at all levels of the organization of the state, in the Council of Ministers, the ministries, and the executive committees of the district people's councils, in total confidence that the people will support their work.

Assaults Follow Democrats' Election Loss

AU0304191491 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1800 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Statement by Interior Ministry spokesman issued in Tirana on 3 April]

[Text] On 2 and 3 April 1991, citizens resident in the countryside have come to the police of some districts such as Tirana, Elbasan, Durres, Kavaje, etc., indignant at the pressure to which they have been subjected by various young people in the towns.

In a provocative, offensive, and humiliating fashion, these city-dwellers have physically trampled on and irretrievably spoiled the agricultural and dairy products that these countrymen were to place on sale for townspeople. In some cases, vehicles were damaged and animals were killed. Those committing these provocative and destructive acts said: You cost the Democratic Party the elections.

Charges have been laid against many citizens resident in the towns for such behavior, which outrages the people, destroys their peace of mind, and seriously violates the freedom of the individual, the subject that all the country's political forces talk about so much these days.

Opposition Members' Funeral Attracts 20,000

AU0304194191 Paris AFP in English 1858 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Shkoder, Albania, April 3 (AFP)—Around 20,000 attended the funeral here Wednesday of three young people shot dead by police at an anti-communist rally the day before.

In silence the mourners gave the V-for-victory sign around three open coffins containing the bodies of Arben Broci, 24, Besnik Ceka, 27, and Bujar Bishanaku, 24, [last two names as received] killed when police opened fire on demonstrators Tuesday.

Emotions rans high as Democratic Party leader Sali Berisha read the funeral address for the dead, whom, he said "were killed by criminals, and fell for the springtime of democracy".

The coffins, draped with the Albanian flag, were surrounded by wreaths of paper flowers.

The funeral procession to the cemetery passed off peacefully. There were a few shouts of "Down with communism", and factory sirens wailed as the mourners passed by. There was no sign of any police presence in the town, where all activity came to a halt.

Groups of peasants from nearby villages lined the route.

The three young people died after police opened fire against demonstrators who, according to the Albanian Interior Ministry, attacked the local communist party headquarters and other official buildings.

Shkoder radio, apparently under the control of the communist authorities, broadcast classical music all day with occasional commentaries by local leaders of the Catholic and Moslem communities.

Despite the emotion, the atmosphere in the town was calm. However local representatives of the Democratic Party said they could not rule out further incidents.

Posters in the town declared that Arben Broci had been "killed by the fascists of Enver Hoxha", the founder and long-time leader of communist Albania.

Mr. Broci, as a prominent local opposition leader, had met Albanian President Ramiz Alia last December during a wave of student protest.

The return of a police presence to reclaim possession of the ravaged party headquarters could spark further violence, observers here said.

Protestors were still in the building Wednesday and were continuing to ransack it, eyewitnesses reported.

The anti-communist protests Tuesday in this western town and in other towns such as the capital Tirana, Elbasan and Kavaje, follow a decisive election victory for the ruling communist party. The communists won overwhelming support in the countryside but were comprehensively defeated in the towns.

Opposition Claims Broad Support in Strike

AU0404101991 Paris AFP in English 1010 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Tirana, April 4 (AFP)—Industries in Tirana and the provinces closed down Thursday in a 24-hour general strike, as opposition leaders said a fourth person died from wounds in Tuesday's police crackdown on anti-communist demonstrators.

Sali Berisha, head of the Democratic Party that called the strike, said it drew broad support across the country but that essential services were not affected.

The strike, backed by the country's independent trade unions, was called to protest the post-election violence Tuesday when police fired on anticommunist demonstrators in the western city of Shkoder.

Three people were killed on the spot, and Mr. Berisha said the fourth died overnight. Some 50 people were also injured in the crackdown.

It was the first general strike called by Albania's fledgling opposition, which lost Sunday's general elections to the ruling communist Party of Labor which has held power since 1946.

"To kill people like this two days after the elections shows that the dictatorship continues," Mr. Berisha said.

Tension remained high in the capital where police regularly dispersed groups of opposition supporters who tried to rally outside the Democratic Party headquarters. Several hundred more people gathered nearby in a desperate attempt to enter the foreign embassy neighborhood, but police with helmets, arms and shields sealed off the district. Trucks filled with soldiers patrolled regularly backed and forth between the opposition headquarters and embassy row.

Anticommunist protests have continued in many cities since Sunday's election. Though communists won a strong majority in parliament, largely thanks to support in the countryside where 65 per cent of the Albanian population resides, the Democratic Party won a majority of seats in most Albanian cities.

The situation has left the country more polarized than ever, as the U.S. [State] Department Wednesday urged Albanian authorities to investigate allegations of rigging.

Ludzhev: Political Forces Obstructing Reform

AU0304183791 Sofia BTA in English 1722 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 3 (BTA)—Reform in Bulgaria is slipping, Deputy Prime Minister Dimitur Ludzhev said at a press conference here today.

Only a few days after Dimitur Popov's cabinet marked its 100th day in power—which occasioned positive commentaries on the first stage of the reform—Mr. Ludzhev said that the government is overdue in introducing many of the planned measures and drumfired criticism in all directions.

According to the deputy prime minister, who represents the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) in the coalition cabinet, responsible circles in the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] are obstructing the demonopolization and decentralization of economy. They are doing this in order to preserve their influence at the intermediate level of administrative and economic structures, while the BSP's propaganda machine is working against the reform presenting it as "the reform of the SDS."

According to Mr. Ludzhev, the cabinet is not receiving the necessary support from the "basic forces" in the SDS, either. They do not believe in the success of the reform with the majority the BSP is now holding in parliament. He cited a leader of one of the most influential parties in the SDS as saying that to believe in the possibility to change the system in this political conjuncture is to cherish a mere illusion.

The deputy prime minister urged the political forces to shoulder the responsibilities they have undertaken in the agreement they signed, and called parliament to concentrate on the most important laws and to stop dealing with secondary problems which are within the competence of the executive.

Answering a question, Mr. Ludzhev did not deny that parliamentary elections in the middle of the year would block the progress of the reform at least for some time. However, he did not exclude the possibility that such elections may be held if "political ambitions" petty interests and partisan passions, take the upper hand or if new elections prove to be the only way to overcoming the resistance to the reform.

The deputy prime minister said that in the government there are "the inevitable for a coalition cabinet, frictions, contradictions and tensions, but that we cannot speak of a crisis."

Mr. Ludzhev pins his hopes for finding a way out of the impasse and for proceeding to the stage of economic restructuring on the supporters of the reform within the government, in parliament and in the government-employers-trade unions trilateral commission.

Ivan Garvalov Details 'New Foreign Policy'

AU0304184091 Sofia BTA in English 1733 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 3 (BTA)—"Now Bulgaria is pursuing an independent foreign policy geared to its national interests," First Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Garvalov, said at today's briefing at the Foreign Ministry. He spoke about Foreign Minister Viktor Vulkov's active diplomatic work in the first hundred days of the cabinet. His activities helped Bulgaria emerge from its former isolation.

The priority spheres of Bulgaria's new foreign policy are Europe, the Balkans, the United States, Canada, and Japan. Mr. Garvalov said that this country is seeking new forms of cooperation with the USSR and Eastern Europe.

"We have been assured that the Council of Europe is doing its best to speed up Bulgaria's admission to this organization. I personally hope that this will happen before the end of the year," Mr. Garvalov said. Bulgaria's efforts to broaden its contacts with the European Community are aimed at becoming an associate, and later a full member, of this organization. The official relations which have been established with NATO will be further promoted. The first ever visit by NATO's general secretary is expected in June. Being well-aware of the importance of the economic aspects of foreign political activities, the Foreign Ministry is seeking contacts with the international financial and economic institutions and is trying to activate bilateral relations with Western Europe. International cooperation in environmental protection is among the top priorities.

Mr. Ivan Garvalov stated that the Foreign Ministry is not showing a preferential approach to any of the Balkan countries. Bulgaria's relations with Greece are the most dynamic at present, but the relations with Turkey are also being activated. In connection with the Black Sea zone of economic cooperation proposed by Turkey, Mr. Garvalov stressed that Bulgaria has not taken a negative stand but national interests will again be of decisive importance. Mr. Garvalov pointed out that there are great prospects before Bulgaro-Yugoslav relations, despite the present stagnation caused by developments in the two countries. The Bulgarian side is considering initiatives for overcoming this stagnation. The promotion of relations with Albania has been slowed down by the latest events there.

Mr. Garvalov emphasized that Bulgaria has been tapping every opportunity for an all-round promotion of its relations with the United States. These opportunities are growing, according to the Bulgarian diplomat. The United States have obviously taken a positive attitude to this country.

"We are seeking to impart new meaning to our relations with the USSR on the basis of genuine equality. We wish our cooperation to be in line with our national interests

and with the changing conditions in the two countries," Mr. Ivan Garvalov said. He specified that all positive aspects of the former bilateral cooperation will be preserved. For the first time in many years Bulgaria's new ambassador to the USSR will be a career diplomat.

Bulgaria is greatly interested in a large-scale development of its relations with Japan. Mr. Garvalov takes hope in the fact that Japan is also showing interest in this country.

Mr. Garvalov said that China is another country that should not be, and is not, ignored by Bulgaria.

Bulgaria is also seeking to stabilize its contacts with the Middle East, to develop its economic, scientific and technical cooperation with Latin America, to maintain mutually advantageous relations with the African countries, and to broaden its contacts with the countries in Asia and Oceania.

Popov Assails Firms' Slow Reactions

AU0304144291 Sofia VECHERNI NOVINI in Bulgarian 28 Mar 91 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Dimitur Popov by Simeon Danevski in the assembly building in Sofia on 27 March]

[Text] [Danevski] Mr. Prime Minister, you have more than once had occasion in the press, on radio, and on television to express your satisfaction with the economic reform under way in the country. With what aspects are you still dissatisfied?

[Popov] Most of all, I am dissatisfied with the fact that the first hundred days, following which it is the practice in good society to make an assessment, were not...300. We are all the slaves of time, therefore, let us look at things as they really are.

I cannot be pleased with certain state structures, especially in the economic field, which are not behaving and reacting adequately in the spirit and sense of what has been adopted in our decisions and decrees. Take the freeing of prices, for example. I cannot be satisfied with the view of the leaders of certain state structures and enterprises, as well as some politicians, who now cast the blame for everything they have failed to do themselves on the government. It is as if the government is to blame for assuming the task of ruling the country in an exceptionally grave situation. We had to liberalize prices, because otherwise we would have died of hunger. Now goods are available in the stores, at higher prices of course, but these prices are real ones, or close to them.

I am not particularly pleased with the wall erected by certain economic leaders in connection with purchasing goods from the producers. Such a wall exists, let us not deceive ourselves. They are doing this to keep prices high and to ensure that there are always shortages in the market. This pleases them, they are interested only in their pay, not in people. This means that mechanisms are needed to force them to abandon this role.

I am not happy with the campaign that has been started against interest rates. Many things have been said, particularly that the new interest rates will debilitate the economy. This is not true. Even now there are some enterprises that are working well, despite the new interest rates. Is it really so troublesome to borrow 100 leva and return 145 a year later? The good businessman will employ this amount 10 times over. What is the result then? It turns out that for him the interest rate is...4.5 percent. This is what the market economy means. Do some people really not know this, or is it easier for them not to do this?

Finally, I am not pleased with the fact that some people are criticizing us for having no program. Really! How can this be true? If we had a year available, we could have worked out a detailed platform. What is the situation now? We are working in an ever changing situation. I can hardly be pleased with this view. It is a good thing that the members of the legislature understand us.

To sum up, I will say the following: Gentlemen, for heavens sake, we have leapt over the worst! It now only remains for us to land safe and sound. There will still be difficulties later, but the worst is over.

[Danevski] Do you expect to give another interview as prime minister in 100 days time?

[Popov] If God keeps us alive and well, this will take place, and why not?

[Danevski] You said that you need 300 days....

[Popov] Let us not play around with figures. Our task is to govern the country under the conditions we are in, and make decisions until the new government takes office. What is important is that now people have faith in us, as a country and as a people. Before the end of the year we will receive over $2 billion as aid in the form of loans. The world has accepted us, and this is very important. It has accepted us because it is pleased with what we have done, with our self-control, and with the fact that we have not become involved in unnecessary strikes and protests.

In conclusion, I will say that we are making progress, and that the difficulties are many and varied. In the future it will continue to be difficult, because the changes are all-embracing. We should not be frightened!

Agriculture Minister on Food Prices, Land Act

AU0304153691 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 29 Mar 91 p 4

[Interview with Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Boris Spirov by Lyubomir Koralov; place and date not given: "European Thinking"]

[Excerpts] [Koralov] Speculation has developed to an alarming extent since the freeing of prices. Is there any way of stopping it?

[Spirov] The appearance of speculation is connected with the launch of the economic reform, and it creates a multitude of difficulties. The speculative elements in the distribution network for food products are especially dangerous. At our meetings with producers and traders, they stressed the issue of interest rates and credits as one of the chief causes of the "price seesaw." We explained to them quite plainly that the state will not provide subsidies and that other means will have to be found that do not greatly disrupt the country's tottering balance sheet—a new taxation policy, rescheduling of payments, and so on. The ministry cannot and will not assume a commitment to grant subsidies. We will have to look for a different approach. Among other things, I suggested to the Council of Ministers that trade discounts should be avoided, and that there should be a changeover to direct deals between the retail traders and the producers, thus leaving the big monopoly firms like Serdika, Rodopa, and others out in the cold. In this way we will succeed in creating the prerequisites for establishing the market economy in agriculture that is so necessary now for the Land Act to be implemented.

[Koralov] The Land Act is already a fact, the political forces have adopted it. Do you have any feedback on how the law is being accepted in the villages by those whom it is supposed to serve?

[Spirov] There is every sign that people are ready for the law. Only two days after the Land Act was passed, some people came to see me from the villages of Sadovo, in Plovdiv Oblast, and Brestnik, near Asenovgrad. In both places cooperatives of private owners have already been formed. The boundaries of the land that they will cultivate have been defined, although certain difficulties will arise in this respect. In Sadovo, they want some of the land belonging to the Institute of Plant Introduction and Plant Resources and the School of Agriculture to be returned to them. In Brestnik they are taking steps to recover ownership of the old wine cellar.

The fact that the law is already being applied in practice does not mean that everything will go smoothly. Complex issues are continually cropping up in connection with ownership. For examples, the villages around Sofia have hardly any land left, and their inhabitants are protesting and demanding justice. The myth that people do not want their property has proved to be untrue—almost 80 percent of the owners want to get their property back and to dispose of it as is permitted under the law.

[Koralov] Very well, but will they get the chance? The Council of Ministers has already spent several sessions considering the question of agriculture's immediate needs. At first, they determined the amount required as $360 million, but later the figure was adjusted to $190 million. The Council of Ministers has still not formed a final view on this, but the crop sowing and the animals cannot wait....

[Spirov] That is not quite right. It is true that the state treasury is empty and is unable to provide all the money to meet agriculture's immediate needs at the start of the spring and summer sowing season. A decision has been made to cover half the needs through aid coming from abroad, while the rest will come from the budget. We expect to receive money, seed, agricultural chemicals, and feed from a number of sources: from the United States; from the PHARE [Economic Reconstructin Aid for Poland and Hungary] Program of the Group of 24, which is coordinated by the EC Commission; and from other individual states—Austria, for example, made a grant of 17 million schillings through our Commercial Bank. The money will primarily be used for the purchase of fertilizers, drugs, and food goods for direct use. From Austria, again, we will receive 4,500 tonnes of wheat. [passage omitted]

[Koralov] You are just back from a trip to Italy. What is their attitude regarding the urgent needs of Bulgarian agriculture?

[Spirov] During my visit the issue was raised not only of satisfying the urgent requirements of Bulgarian farming, but of a complete aid package for Bulgaria, the main part of which will be for agriculture. The investments for our country should not be less than for Hungary, for example. Minister Sacomandi [name as transliterated] showed understanding for the request that we made in this respect, and we were promised assistance. [passage omitted]

Paparizov Comments on Agricultural Trade

AU0404081091 Sofia BTA in English 2043 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 3 (BTA)—"The supplies of maize, tomato and potato seed have started, 30,000 tonnes of barley are expected within the European Community's PHARE [Economic Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] Programme which granted ECU [European currency units] 16 million for seed and technical aid for Bulgarian agriculture," Mr. Atanas Paparizov, minister of external economic relations, told a news conference today. Bulgaria is holding talks with the USSR on enlarging its export list. This country is negotiating with South Korea about the purchase of farming equipment with part of the 50 million dollars credit granted by South Korea. Mr. Paparizov spoke about the ministry's new structure and tasks. According to him, the transition to a market economy requires that the ministry should bring to a minimum its interference into companies' business. This year the ministry will cut thirty per cent of its staff and half of its representatives abroad.

By March 25, Bulgarian companies have exported some 2,000 tonnes of meat to Greece and Italy within this

country's export quota for the EC and under government-granted licences. At the request of Bulgaria, the Greek Government has allowed the export of 10,000 lambs above the quota of 100 tonnes of meat for the first four months of the year under a bilateral agreement. The press conference was told that Bulgaria's Government is discussing possibilities to reduce export fees on foodstuffs and other goods with a view to protecting manufacturers' interests, without simultaneously "depriving" the home market.

Mr. Paparizov believes that the tobacco state monopoly should be retained. However, the major manufacturer in the tobacco industry, the Bulgartabak Company, should hold contests to stimulate competition between tobacco-growers wishing to enter the export lists.

Minister Maslarova on Rising Unemployment Figures

AU0304161091 Sofia VECHERNI NOVINI in Bulgarian 29 Mar 91 p 1

[Mariya Koleva report on news conference by Labor and Social Welfare Minister Emiliya Maslarova with unidentified reporters; place and date not given]

[Text] The latest national unemployment figures continue to be far from reassuring. According to Minister Maslarova, this problem will be "the toughest nut to crack in our entire social policy." Since the beginning of March alone, 20,878 people have registered at the employment offices, and most of them are highly qualified specialists. The proportion of female unemployed continues to be almost 60 percent.

The report states that the total number of unemployed in the country is now 124,062, of whom 16,690 have higher education—a continuing rising trend. On the other hand, the number of job vacancies continues to fall, and now stands at 11,375,453, which are for persons with higher education. Plovdiv, with 22,617 jobless, continues to record the highest level of unemployment, followed by Sofia Oblast, with 19,482, and Sofia City, with 16,583. Sofia has the highest number of unemployed with higher education, namely 6,590!

Given this high level of unemployment, we cannot ignore the fact that about 88,000 jobs are held by pensioners. The majority of these jobs, however, are in spheres not quoted on the labor exchange. The vacant positions offered are also of low social standing: armed guards, medical orderlies, and jobs involving heavy physical labor.

The National Labor Exchange specialists believe a number of companies deliberately fail to advertise all their vacancies because of the serious problems being encountered, especially in industry. Despite the unfavorable economic situation, unemployment is expected to rise gradually, not sharply and suddenly.

A few days ago a very unpleasant rumor started circulating in the lines of the unemployed at the labor exchanges: There will not be enough money for social assistance payments in April.

Minister Maslarova, however, categorically denied any likelihood of the assistance payments being stopped.

The agreement concluded recently with Germany on Bulgarian workers arouses many questions. The agreement provides for a contingent of 4,000 workers, half of whom will be employed in the building trade. The purpose of the agreement is not to export guestworkers but to create decent conditions for Bulgarians working abroad.

Zhelev's Declaration on Intelligence Services

AU0404075791 Sofia BTA in English 2024 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 3 (BTA)—"The process of democratic reforms in the Republic of Bulgaria is irreversible and it is essential that the burden of the past in many spheres should be removed," a declaration by the President's Office, received at the BTA today, says. One such sphere is the activity of the intelligence services and agencies of the past. It is extremely important that these sensitive issues should be discussed openly. This is a problem common to all Central and East European countries.

Bulgaria would like to make the first step and tackle this problem quickly and efficiently, thus achieving several purposes. First, the activity of the Bulgarian intelligence services will be revealed to an extent that will pose no threat to Bulgaria's security. Second, the problems of the past ensuing from, or related with such activities, will be clarified, which will promote Bulgaria's new image as a country with a democratic and open society. Third, Bulgaria will become aware of the prospects for cooperation with other intelligence services in the sphere of national security, in combating organized crime, terrorism and the international drug traffic.

The attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II in 1981 by Ali Agca and his possible accomplices is among the specific problems of the past to be inquired into. Bulgaria's president has been notified that Prof. Alan Weinstein, an eminent historian and president of the Washington-based Centre for Democracy, has organized and chairs an international commission consisting of scientists and outstanding public figures. The commission will explore the available evidence on the case, including so far unpublished archive materials of the then government. The president intends to offer Prof. Weinstein and the international commission all kinds of cooperation in seeking the truth. The president calls on persons and governments holding information on the case to submit it to the commission and thus help it reveal the whole truth. The commission will hold its first meeting in Sofia in early May, to mark the tenth anniversary of this event.

Another important step in this direction is the conference which will be held next autumn in Sofia under the aegis of Bulgaria's president and of the Centre for Democracy. The idea for this conference came up during the meeting between President Zhelev and Prof. Weinstein in the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. "We are aware of Prof. Weinstein's personal commitment to assisting the democratic reforms in this country," the declaration says. The subject of the conference will be "On the Real Role of the Intelligence Services in Democratic Societies."

Dispute Over Experts' Report on Ruse Pollution

AU0404082791 Sofia BTA in English 2050 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 3 (BTA)—The results of the international expertise on the environmental pollution in the region of the cities of Giurgiu (Romania) and Ruse (Bulgaria) with the participation of experts of the United Nations Environmental Protection Programme (UNEP) gave rise to heated discussions at a press conference held here today at the Ministry of Environment. (The Ruse-Giurgiu problem was brought about by the many-year pollution of the city of Ruse by the chemical works in Giurgiu.) However, the former leaders of the two countries Todor Zhivkov and Nicolae Ceausescu, did not let this problem "spoil" their good relations. This prompted the first demonstrations and later the setting up of the first non-formal organization in Bulgaria during Zhivkov's regime. The taboo on this problem was raised in 1990 after Todor Zhivkov was removed from power. There followed negotiations at government level, the exchange of declarations between the parliaments of the two countries and an agreement between the two foreign ministries on holding this international expertise. (It was held from November 26 through 30.)

The results of the expertise were presented at the press conference which was also attended by representatives of independent ecological movements. According to these results, from the geographical and meteorological point of view, the region can be regarded as a single ecological zone. The present pollution is a problem caused by pollutants on both sides of the Danube which should be solved by means of a joint programme and good coordination.

Journalists and specialists objected to the conclusions of the experts. They were particularly dissatisfied with the ascribed equal guilt for the pollution of the region. The Ministry of Environment was accused of concealing data in the past. According to Bulgarian specialists, some of whom took part in the expertise, measurements were taken only in two of the workshops in Giurgiu, and at a time when they were not working at that.

An opinion was expressed that the lack of an overall picture on the real ecological situation in Ruse was the reason why the experts reached the conclusion that: The problem does not seem acute, pressing and demanding urgent measures. [sentence as received] Its impact on the health of the population and on environment probably does not differ from that in the other industrialized regions of similar geographic and meteorological conditions in the world..

It became clear that the international experts were acquainted with the state of health of the citizens of Ruse and especially of the children living in it. In the course of five years the cases of children with congenital deformities increased from 27.5 to 39.7 per thousand.

The stand taken by the expert group of the ministry after it was acquainted with the results of the expertise is presented in a separate paragraph. It says that the "available data on the state of health of the population in Ruse proves a specific 'pollution- effect' connection. The existing health risk should be regarded as an urgent problem demanding immediate action." On the whole the expert group agrees with the proposals and the conclusions of UNEP.

Mr. Valentin Bosevski, deputy minister of environment, tried to calm the audience, stressing that this expertise should be regarded as a stage in the solving of the environmental problems of the region. In this Bulgaria will receive assistance within the PHARE [Economic Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] Programme and from other foreign organizations and institutes.

Trade Minister on Black Sea Cooperation Project

TA0304142091 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0900 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Ankara (AA)—Bulgaria does not oppose a Black Sea economic cooperation project proposed by Turkey, but needs time, a senior Bulgarian official said.

In an exclusive interview, Bulgarian Trade Minister Ivan Pushkarov told AA that his country would put no obstacles in the way of the project.

"Just the opposite, we support this project and regard it as a promising one," he said.

Pushkarov is currently attending an international meeting in this Mediterranean city to discuss cooperation between Turkey and east European countries.

He said that for the moment Bulgaria was in a special position as the socialist trading bloc COMECON is being abolished and the future of its relations with the Soviet Union is not yet clear.

"Our relations with our previous partners should take a new shape," he said.

Pushkarov added that a Bulgarian delegation was to visit Moscow next Monday to discuss these relations.

He said Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia were planning to establish a kind of small common market and that Romania proposed a week ago to establish a

free trade zone and financial union, while a U.S. firm has proposed a project to establish a number of free trade zones in Bulgaria.

Pushkarov said that dealing with these many ideas had prevented his country from resolving other matters and therefore Bulgaria was ineffective in answering the Turkish proposal.

He added that the Black Sea economic cooperation project would be a very effective means of achieving integration between participating countries and their integration into Europe.

"Our participation in this depends on how our relations with our previous trading partners develop," he said.

He added that they had great expectations from Turkey in reestablishing their economy.

"We expect technical aid from Turkey and seek concrete partnerships," he said.

Witnesses 'Conceal' Evidence at Zhivkov Trial

AU0304200791 Sofia BTA in English 1935 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 3 (BTA)—The court hearing the Zhivkov-Balev case was told today that China is still following some of the concepts evolved by Zhivkov in his lectures before the former Academy for Social Sciences and Social Management. Witness David Elazar, ex-director of the now defunct Institute on the History of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP), referred to these concepts when asked by the prosecutor to describe the defendant's personality.

Mr. David Elazar, a fellow partisan of Zhivkov's, described him as an efficient, hard-working man who had a flair for innovation. "he would endure criticism only as far as it did not refer to power," Mr. Elazar said. He also used to imitate Khrushchev.

"Prior to growing rich, every country has first been polluted and then cleaned up," witness Nacho Papazov said. He was member of the secretariat of the BCP former Central Committee, and chief of the State Committee for Science and Technological Progress. His statement was connected with the 20,000 leva social benefits granted by the BCP to Georgi Pavlov. He is considered a major culprit for environmental pollution in his capacity as a long-serving chief of the chemical industry. Later on he headed the Committee for Environmental Protection.

Now that 200 out of 247 witnesses have been questioned, the defense and the prosecution are "crossing swords' ever more often. Today Prosecutor Krasimir Zhekov contested the court ruling that a batch of 38 volumes of evidence should be referred to the case as the defense had requested. These volumes contain evidence on the forcible assimilation campaign against the Turks and on the causes of this country's economic crisis. The prosecutor argued that this evidence is not relevant to this particular case.

Mr. Zhekov considers the steps taken by the defense as an attempt to postpone the investigative proceedings which the Armed Forces Prosecutor's Office and the Prosecutor General Office will initiate against Zhivkov on new charges.

"The prosecution is complaining that we are impeding its work, but how could they expect us to assist them?," lawyer Daniela Dokovska asked in her turn.

"The trial is making but difficult progress," the prosecutor told BTA today. Obviously many witnesses tend to conceal some evidence in court, thus helping Zhivkov. He said that there are discrepancies between the witnesses' statements during the investigation and before the court. His explanation is that they have been favored by the regime.

The court will rule on Mr. Zhekov's request tomorrow. Whatever the ruling, however, surprises are to be expected.

Havel's Constitution Draft 'Neo-Stalinist'

AU0404075291

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 2 April on page 3 carries a 2,000-word "open letter" from Jozef Dubnicek, Slovak minister of construction and the building industry and a leading representative of the Democratic Party, to President Vaclav Havel. The letter, which responds to the publication of President Havel's draft of the CSFR constitution, is published under the headline "A House Is Built from Its Foundations."

Dubnicek qualifies Havel's draft as an "attempt at preserving the status quo" regarding Slovakia's status in the federation and as "conserving the existing and in many ways outdated state of the constitutional arrangement of the federation." Instead of enshrining the powers of the republics as "exclusive" and the powers of the federation as "entrusted" by the republics, Havel's draft "conserves and even deepens the centralistic powers of the federation at the expense of the sovereignty of the republics." It "places the federation in the role of the policeman, dictator, judge, executor, and controller of the republics' movement and conduct." In Dubnicek's opinion, the draft constitution submitted by the president "represents a retreat from the position of a principally new approach to the question of sovereignty and statehood of the Slovaks and Czechs, as embodied even in the policy statement of the CSFR Government, and perpetuates the deformation of their relations." According to the minister, with its "evident elements of pseudo-internationalism and Czechoslovakism, the draft confirms the neo-Stalinist unitarian (imperial) principle of the federation" and thereby "trails behind, from the viewpoint of the needs of Slovakia, the Constitutional Law on the Czechoslovak Federation of 1968."

In view of the "unacceptability of the draft constitution in its present form," Dubnicek believes that "the Slovak Republic will apparently have no other option but to approve a temporary constitution of the Slovak Republic to bridge the practically existing constitutional vacuum in the republic, without regard for the reaction of its present partner" in the federation.

In the open letter, Dubnicek also sets out his own views on the future CSFR constitution. He believes that federal bodies should be "executors of the will of the republics." The orientation and aims of their activity ought to be decided by the Slovak National Council and the Czech National Council, to which federal bodies would be accountable. The federal legislative body would consist of only one chamber, represented by a joint meeting of the Slovak National Council and the Czech National Council. Instead of the federal bodies controlling republican bodies, as foreseen "de facto" in the president's draft, it should be the republics that "organize and directly control" federal bodies.

In concluding, Dubnicek appeals to Havel to "draw the policy of the Castle closer to the interests and needs of Slovakia."

MNI Protests Against 'Traitors' Label

AU0304142091 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 29 Mar 91 p 2

[Statement issued by the Hungarian Independent Initiative Political Committee in Bratislava on 27 March: "The Hungarian Independent Initiative Political Committee's Point of View"]

[Text] The Hungarian Independent Initiative [MNI] Political Committee has been monitoring with alarm the various statements—published in the daily press and in other mass media—concerning the draft law on amending ownership relations to land, especially Paragraph No. 21 on returning land to citizens affected by laws on collective guilt. Although the majority of the above-mentioned statements are at variance with historical reality, we feel obliged to issue the following statement:

1. The claim that the draft law on land would enable collaborators, traitors, and enemies of the Slovak and Czech nations to get their land back is not based on the truth. The draft law on land only relates to Czechoslovak state citizens permanently resident in the CSFR. As we know, Hungarians were deprived of their state citizenship at the end of World War II on the basis of decree No. 33/1945 issued by the president of the Republic. Their citizenship was returned to them after 1948, but only to those who were not traitors to the Slovak nation. The list of collaborators—No. 190/1948—drawn up by the Interior Ministry on 16 December 1948 contained approximately 300 names. The remaining ethnic Hungarian citizens were absolved of guilt and were granted state citizenship in accordance with Law No. 245/1948. This means that the above-mentioned draft law on land can in no way relate to fascist collaborators.

2. The claim that land would be returned to Hungarian counts and landowners by the possible adoption of the above-mentioned draft is not based on the truth. On the basis of the law on land reform, dated 16 April 1919, their land was distributed among those who applied for it. There was no change in this ownership situation even after 1945. That is, the draft law excludes the possibility that land will be returned to its former owners—counts and landowners.

3. The claim that the possible approval of the draft law on land would indicate the necessity of returning land owned by Slovaks living in South Slovakia is not based on the truth. After all, the draft law relates exclusively to land in state ownership.

4. The claim that the possible approval of the draft law on amending ownership relations to land by including Paragraph No. 21 would mean casting aspersions on the

outcome of World War II and rehabilitating war criminals, traitors, and enemies of the Slovak and Czech nations does not correspond to reality for the above-mentioned reasons.

In Bratislava on 27 March 1991.

Signed by MNI General Secretary Karoly Toth.

Meciar Denies Secret Talks With Soviet Generals

AU0404093891 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 29 Mar 91 p 2

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by "tmp"-signed reporter; place and date not given: "One Question for Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar"]

[Text] [NARODNA OBRODA] Mr. Meciar, various foreign papers, but also foreign radio stations' commentaries, quote the statement you made at Saturday's [23 March] meeting in Martin, in which you said that you "negotiated secretly with Soviet generals for permission to continue the production of weapons manufactured in Martin". What did you mean?

[Meciar] You are informed about what is going on in Europe. The USSR it limiting its stockpiles—its arms production—and the Warsaw Pact is disintegrating. Slovakia is also suspending its arms production. We would only like to slow down the rate of reduction [in arms production] before new civilian [production] programs are prepared. We are looking for them all over Europe.

Even before I left for the USSR, my trip was undermined by the insinuation that I was going to meet Soviet generals secretly. Of course, there was no [secret meeting]. If such a meeting had been held, then I would not make it public in front of a gathering of 5,000 people. If I ironically ridicule slander, it is taken as a confirmation [of this slander].

During business talks I said that [arms industry] conversion is having a serious economic impact in our country and that we are looking for ways of opening doors—at least—to our trade relations in other sectors.

Javorsky Comments on Meciar's USSR Dealings

AU0404092791 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 29 Mar 91 p 1

[Interview with Frantisek Javorsky, Slovak National Council Defense and Security Committee chairman, by Beata Bernikova; place and date not given: "The Legislature Knows Nothing"]

[Text] [Bernikova] What information do you have about the barter (exchange) trade in connection with the export of arms from Slovakia to Syria and Iran?

[Javorsky] We, on the level of the Slovak National Council Presidium, have no information about it yet. We do not know anything about it.

[Bernikova] The Soviet Union now owes us 3.5 billion dollars at a one to one exchange rate (dollar to ruble). Allegedly, we are supplying the arms to the USSR on credit.

[Javorsky] According to information that we were given to verify whether Mr. Meciar's statements about secret talks during his recent visit to the Soviet Union are true, it has become evident that, in fact, the prime minister has not held talks on this subject. Minister Belcak negotiated with some other person about it—without success.

[Bernikova] From what sources does the Slovak Government intend to pay for the arms production in Martin and Dubnica nad Vahom?

[Javorsky] We have not been informed about this, either. Just today, the Slovak Republic Government should provide an explanation about all of its activity abroad and about its [domestic] activity. I hope this is what will happen.

[Bernikova] What do you know about the sales of arms to some African states; such as Nigeria, for example.

[Javorsky] We have not spoken about this either on the level of the Slovak National Council Defense and Security Committee or on the level of the Slovak National Council Presidium .

[Bernikova] If the previous agreements are confirmed, it would mean an international scandal. How would NATO react to the violation of the relevant agreements that were approved in the Federal Assembly recently?

[Javorsky] It is likely that it would not stop in the Slovak National Council and that an explanation would not be enough. If there is evidence that agreements—to which we are signatories—were violated, someone specific will have to bear the responsibility.

[Bernikova] Does the Slovak Government have a license from the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade to export weapons to the above-mentioned regions?

[Javorsky] We are also not informed whether, within the framework of jurisdiction, such a possibility has been granted to the Slovak Government.

[Bernikova] The Slovak Government—or its representatives, as the case may be—must know that a license is required from the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade to trade in weapons and that the Defense and Security Committee must be informed about it also.

[Javorsky] Well, this is one of the reasons for the crisis in relations between the Slovak National Council and the Slovak Government. We have proceeded on two almost

separate tracks, we have not provided information to one another and, as a consequence of this, our activity was not coordinated.

[Bernikova] Do you perceive the legislature as an institution that has legislative powers only, or as an institution that also has executive power?

[Javorsky] I have nothing to add. From what you have said, the latter is unequivocal.

Civic Movement on Meciar Visit, Federation

AU0404073191 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 30 Mar 91 p 1

["(la)"-signed report: "Will V. Meciar Conclude an Agreement?"]

[Text] Prague—Preserving the federation, screenings, and the Slovak prime minister's unexpected visit to Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart on Thursday [28 March] were the main topics discussed at yesterday's press briefing with representatives of the Civic Movement Preparatory Committee.

As we found out from Jana Ryslinkova, the Civic Movement is looking for partners in Slovakia who—along with it—will strive to maintain the federation. At the same time, its principle partner will continue to be the Public Against Violence movement, first and foremost, the group around Fedor Gal. In this connection, the conclusion of a state treaty in accordance with international law is completely unacceptable since the federation would have to be dissolved first of all.

As far as a referendum is concerned, the Civic Movement will emphasize the most recent law submitted by the federal government. Of course, nothing should be hurried since there are a number of risks and, mainly, since this is seen as a very last resort as confirmed by the experience from Prime Minister Pithart and Czech National Council Chairwoman Dagmar Buresova's recent visit to Moravia. Everyone present wanted a tripartite federation, but—after all the circumstances had been clarified—their final opinion was completely different.

During Thursday's unexpected visit by Slovak Prime Minister V. Meciar, Czech Prime Minister P. Pithart—as he himself stated—was informed by the Slovak representative that he has a different concept for economic reform. The difference should only be in its local implementation. Therefore, an agreement was reached that everything will be confirmed in writing in the future. In this connection, P. Pithart said that the Slovak prime minister had expressed anxiety about future development. Pithart also said that he had told his Slovak counterpart that Minister Knazko's evaluation of the negotiations on jurisdiction was unacceptable to the Czech side.

VPN-ZDS Committee Issues 'Appeal to Citizens'

AU0404095391 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 30 Mar 91 p 3

[Statement issued to CTK by the Public Against Violence movement For a Democratic Slovakia platform Organizational Committee on 29 March; place not given: "Who We Are and What We Want"]

[Text] The Public Against Violence [VPN] movement For a Democratic Slovakia [ZDS] platform Organizational Committee issued the following Appeal to Citizens via CTK on Friday [29 March]:

Who We Are and What We Want

1. We are a platform within the VPN movement whose aim is to defend and implement the A Chance for Slovakia program. We represent the political center, and we reject the attempts to divert the VPN movement—to the right or to the left—from its original political line.

2. We want to develop democracy; the VPN movement opened the doors to this for us. While fully respecting democratic parliamentary mechanisms, the VPN-ZDS platform will strive for the renewal and maintenance of relations between the general public and deputies. The main issue for us is to ensure that deputies do not defend the interests of political groups, but—first and foremost—defend the interests of their voters.

3. We want a sovereign, democratic, and prosperous Slovakia. Therefore, we are striving for a new quality in the constitutional arrangement based on the principle of two sovereign and equal republics. This should be reflected in the newly adopted constitutions.

4. We want to quickly transform our economy into a market economy. At the same time, we want to take into consideration the Slovak economy's difficult starting points, including their social impact. The step-by-step nature of the transformation measures must be selected in such a way that the requisite social calm is preserved.

Who We Are Not and What We Do Not Want

1. The VPN-ZDS platform is not in favor of a confrontationist political atmosphere in society. We are not in favor of transferring the political disputes within the parties and movements into the work of the parliaments and governments. We reject the disinformation campaigns that seek to label the new platform as national socialism or as a right-wing trend and that otherwise want to discredit us.

2. We reject the campaign of misinterpretation abroad which describes current political events in Slovakia as a return to socialism, fascist-like nationalism, and so on. We will endeavor to clean up Slovakia's image abroad.

3. We are not violators of coexistence between Czechs and Slovaks.

4. However, we reject the denial of the Slovak Republic's natural right to sovereignty. We reject the intensification of the current political crisis and the calls for early elections. We do not want to constitutionally destabilize the political atmosphere so that the work of the governments, parliaments, territorial state administration bodies, and local administrations is disrupted; we want to concentrate on dealing with the citizens' requirements and problems.

Signed by the VPN-ZDS Organizational Committee: A. Matejka; J. Mrenka; P. Sefcik; R. Zelenay; I. Macura; V. Kascak; F. Gaulieder; M. Kovac; L. Galisova; M. Knazko; J. Fabian; J. Olejar; R. Filkus; A. M. Huska; I. Macuska; M. Filkova; and R. Hofbauer.

Carnogursky on 'Secret Talks,' Early Elections

AU0404091991 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 29 Mar 91 p 2

["da"-signed report: "Slovak Tanks to the USSR?"]

[Excerpt] One of the topics broached at yesterday's news conference in Bratislava with Jan Carnogursky, Slovak first deputy prime minister and chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement [KDH], was the issue of [Slovak] Prime Minister V. Meciar's alleged "secret" talks with the Soviet side about exporting tanks made at Martin. "I am ready to bet a bottle of wine that we will not sell a single tank to the Soviet Union, although there would be readiness on our side, in the event of Soviet interest. But the situation is such that the USSR itself has to cope with its own excess production of tanks. The USSR did not buy this technology from us even in the past," the KDH chairman said. [Foreign Trade] Minister Baksay's official talks in Moscow did not confirm the prime minister's commercial efforts.

Another issue that was raised was the need to reconstruct the Slovak National Council Presidium, as proposed by V. Meciar, in view of the new division of parties. The KDH will not come up with an initiative of this sort, J. Carnogursky said, nor is a reconstruction of the Slovak Government being planned for the time being. In J. Carnogursky's opinion, such a step would be very difficult to take, given the present political situation. The KDH also regards the calling of early elections as an extreme solution. [passage omitted]

Law on 'Antidemocratic Groupings' Considered

AU0304141491

[Editorial Report] Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 26 March on pages 1 and 2 carries a 1,100-word Nada Adamickova article entitled "Vocational Ban for One Million People?" The article deals with Civic Forum Deputy Zdenek Kessler's proposal for a "law on the incompatibility of practicing one's vocation with membership of antidemocratic groupings." The draft of this law, which is "circulating among some Federal Assembly deputies," would reportedly provide for job denial to members of 15 listed "antidemocratic groupings." These include the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] Central Committee, its Presidium, Secretariat, and special commissions involved in the "suppression of human rights and freedoms"; CPCZ district committees and heads of their security affairs departments; People's Militia commanders at all levels; members of "action committees and screening commissions" set up after the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia; members of the StB [State Security] and of military counterintelligence; StB collaborators registered as resident agents, secret collaborators, and informers; "senior staff of state administration at all levels belonging to the category of persons who were appointed to their posts"; the staff of "special and personnel departments of all organizations"; the senior staff of state enterprises and shareholding companies; leading functionaries of the Central Trade Union Council and individual trade union federations; leading functionaries of political parties and organizations represented in the National Front; the heads of cultural and scientific institutions; senior information media staff; leading church representatives; as well as prosecutors and judges active in proceedings involving "crimes against the state." Adamickova estimates that the law would affect about one million people and would thus represent the largest purge since February 1948.

Adamickova concludes her article by saying: "The fact that the whole concept of this law is at sharp variance with the Bill of Human Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees them to all citizens indiscriminately, is self-evident from the legal viewpoint. This does not mean, however, that it cannot be discussed in the legislature or even passed as a law. Recent developments in the Federal Assembly concerning screenings show that the number of deputies is not small who are not overly bothered by violations of this country's other laws."

'Cabinet Questions' With Antall, Kupa, Boross

LD0304104591 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1900 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Studio interview with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, Finance Minister Mihaly Kupa, and Interior Minister Peter Boross by Laszlo Rapczanyi; date not given —recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Dear viewers, we are launching a new fortnightly program called "Cabinet Questions." In this program the prime minister and members of the government will inform you about topical issues. [passage omitted]

[Rapczanyi] I greet Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and ministers Mihaly Kupa and Peter Boross. It is not easy to choose what today's subject should be; however, I think that the finance minister's Moscow talks not only bring up the question and solution of Hungarian-Soviet economic relations but also our place and our opportunities in the region.

[Antall] I think that our primary goal is to carry out the Hungarian Government's politics consistently. Maintaining and improving both West and East relations is a part of this. The mistaken notion that we neglect Soviet relations is often heard. Well, our geographical position makes it simply impossible to neglect Soviet relations even if we want to. Thus we strive to improve Soviet-Hungarian relations consistently and to preserve the good elements. Naturaly, Soviet-Hungarian relations have their critical points which can only be solved by negotiations and on the basis of mutual interests. The Soviet troop withdrawal falls in this category partly. Incidentally, it is proceeding on schedule and we hope it will be completed at an appropriate time.

The other question which is connected with this and which relates to the entire region is the dissolution of the military organization of the Warsaw Pact, the question of the Warsaw Pact itself, and the related issue of Soviet-Hungarian relations. Hungary cannot ignore such a vast region. The links formed in the past decades exist. On the basis of this.

The Soviet market is a determining factor of Hungarian economic life, even today. The finance minister will be able to explain this much better. It [not further specified] has fallen under 20 percent. This of course has its advantages too. It has forced the Hungarian economy to stand its ground at the relentless markets. Hungarian industry has become market oriented and hence we can come up with the best quality products in the toughest markets. However, the Soviet market is especially important for Hungarian economic life in this transitory period since the Hungarian economy was part of the market of an empire in the past decades. Consequently, and especially in branches of industry employing many people, Soviet and even Third World orders were vital. We have to take all this into consideration. As a result on the basis of a comprehensive political concept we have been politicizing with the Soviet Government in a very consistent way. Thus, it is entirely untrue that we have neglected Soviet relations. President Gorbachev denied this at the Paris summit when replying to a question. [passage omitted]

[Rapczanyi] Mr Finance Minister, at your recent negotiations did you detect something from the many unstable signs which characterize the Soviet Union's internal situation?

[Kupa] Well, when I was there 100,000 people were marching toward the Kremlin where 100,000 soldiers were waiting for them. So I detected the instability; however, the real instability, and this can be experienced in our economic relations too, lies in the fact that to do business you have to agree on about four levels at the same time—the federal, republican, and regional. For example, the Thyumen oil region is a separate empire and you have to agree with the enterprises too. Thus it is impossible to conduct business today via the traditional intergovernmental relations. This is one of the signs of instability. The other is that legislation is extremely controversial. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, there is a real and mutual dependency, mostly in the area of a energy. The second is the geographical proximity, and third, fortunately these ties are not that critical to the Hungarian economy. Thus they are not big enough to cause real trouble.

[Rapcsanyi] How would you summarize your visit?

[Kupa] Well, the first point is that it was a very tiring visit. The main thing is that they invited me. Second, we carried out extremely correct negotiations. Third, I saw a willingness to solve every question. This whole affair is just as embarrassing for them as it is difficult for us. I think that when the prime minister visits there, the political, security, and general economic questions can also be settled.

The second lesson is that much more lively relations have to be developed with the republics, keeping in mind that a federal government also exists. [passage omitted]

[Antall] Regarding what the minister just said about the Soviet Union, the goal is to be able maintain relations on several levels. I can refer to the fact that when we were in Moscow in June last year at the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Commission session we held separate consultations both with Gorbachev and Ryzhkov, then the prime minister. The question that we should seek links with the member states separately too cropped up there as well. This is extremely difficult. We set this aim for ourselves then and we offered, for example, to build a big market in Moscow. Prime Minister Ryzhkov said that there is nothing to pay for it with. He said that we should seek relations with, for example, the Thyumen region, where this can be done directly. [passage omitted]

Thus when maintaining links with the Soviet Union you always have to take into consideration that in the Soviet Union perestroyka does not mean a free market economy,

which we have set as a target for ourselves. The reason for the West's dissapointment over the entire question of perestroyka is that they have never clarified it exactly. What does Gorbachev mean by it? It was never said in the Soviet Union that they wanted to create an exact market economy and that they would give up everything. Naturally, they are taking steps backward at the moment in the Soviet Union. Despite this, however, it has to be clearly understood that in this region one can not speak of exactly the same ownership and political arrangements.

We want to maintain good relations with the whole region and with our neighbors by all means. It is clear that this applies to the Soviet Union too; however, within this Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary represent a threesome, and not because of the Visegrad summit, but because it is these three out of the former socialist countries which negotiate with the Common Market in parallel in the interest of joining or associate membership. So this is the difference.

Second, as the minister also pointed out, it is very important for Hungary to stabilize ownership relations. We, as a government coalition at the moment, are attempting to create stability with the compensation bill proposal. This might have faults and negative sides to it. There is no perfect solution here. The point is to find a solution with the compensation bill so the Hungarian ownership system will be stable.

[Rapscanyi] What are your concerns about this subject [property relations] Mr Minister of the Interior?

[Boross] The property, the property reform, and settling property ownership as already mentioned. The essence of this is that in the Hungarian economy instead of the two-tier [as heard] state property system there should be real owners. I think this is sufficiently well-known. One group of such very significant owners are the local governments. [passage omitted]

The assets the Hungarian local governments will receive are enormous, and these are debt free. This is very important. Perhaps we do not now have to give a separate lecture on the state debts, it is public knowledge. The local governments are receiving debt-free assets allocated by the state. [passage omitted]

[Antall] We want a working democracy where the government has a role, the local governments have their role—and naturally, not to mention the legislative and other power structures—but where in addition to the government and local governments there is an increasingly privatized economy which is working according to the rules of a market economy.

While we have been trying to achieve this, we want to enjoy the benefits of this internationally in the future. We do not have another choice, because if we do not choose this, the economy will collapse in any case. So this simply happened because the economic system [word indistinct] had not been functioning. Even though this is what we wanted, this is what Hungarian society wanted. Still, people find it difficult to get used to it and look to the government for many things and expect the government to solve such questions but in a democracy—whether I look at local governments or the economy—the government would have only have extremely limited opportunities.

I think the government is carrying out tasks which are the government's responsibility and this does not mean that the government wants to completely withdraw from economic life, because without government intervention and government actions a market economy can not function either, and certainly not in a situation where a market econmoy has not yet developed. So I think we have started on this road. If we look at our performance in its entirety, either the nearly 100 laws or amendments by parliament, taking them altogether, without any self-satisfaction, we can look forward with confidence to the future. I do not ask for anything else. I do not want anything except for the Hungarian people to have as much confidence and belief in the future as the outside world has in Hungary.

[Rapcsanyi] Mr. Prime Minister, Messrs. Ministers, thank you for the discussion.

Ministry Update on USSR Troop Withdrawal

LD0304125191 Budapest MTI in English 1135 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Budapest, April 3 (MTI)—Up to now, 80,000 Soviet troops, civilian employees and their family members have been withdrawn from Hungary, while 20,000 are still staying in the country, Lieutenant-Colonel Laszlo Tikos, head of the press department of the Ministry of Defence, told MTI. He added that 20,000 of the 27,000 technical means stationed here previously and over 280,000 tonnes of material had been pulled out from Hungary.

Despite the disputes on accounting, the military units specified in the agreement have been withdrawn from Hungary in due order. By the end of March, 1,039 troop-and material-transporting trains left the country. By June 30, 1991, the deadline for the troops withdrawal, another 251 trains will have to leave the territory of Hungary.

Defense Spokesman on Warsaw Pact Replacement

AU0404075191 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 30 Mar 91 p 3

[Interview with Defense Ministry Spokesman Gyorgy Keleti by Katalin Decsi; place and date not given: "A Series of Treaties To Replace the Warsaw Pact"]

[Text] [Decsi] The military organization of the Warsaw Pact is coming to an end starting 1 April. What does this mean in practice?

[Keleti] The outward forms and signs of our belonging to the military organization of the Warsaw Pact have practically ceased to exist in the last months. We have not taken part in joint exercises, and we have not accepted the recommendations concerning the development of weapons and military technology, which used to be customary within the Warsaw Pact. Our previous share of the tasks of the joint training have also come to an end. No Hungarian military leader has taken part in any Warsaw Pact-level talks in the past year.

Representatives of the Warsaw Pact commander in chief operating in our country were the manifestations of the last bond. They also left after [Hungarian Defense Minister] Lajos Fur bid farewell to their leader, General Fedot Krivda [name as published], on 15 March. The Hungarian officers serving at the Warsaw Pact joint command in Moscow have also returned to Hungary. All operational plans concerning the military forces of the Hungarian Republic in a possible armed conflict have lost their significance.

[Decsi] What next?

[Keleti] The Hungarian military leadership has made serious steps to build up our security. We signed a bilateral military agreement with Romania last December and with the CSFR in January. We expect to sign a similar document with Austria in the near future, and a bilateral agreement with the Soviet Union is also in an advanced stage. Our fifth neighbor is Yugoslavia, and the Hungarian side is urging the signing of a treaty, but the current events seem to absorb the attention of the Yugoslav military and political leadership. We hope that an agreement with Yugoslavia will take its turn in the long run.

Lajos Fur is to visit Bulgaria in the near future, and the question of a bilateral agreement will be on the agenda on this occasion. We signed the document with Poland during the Polish defense minister's visit to Budapest. Obviously, these are not identical to the contents of the agreements signed with our immediate neighbors, because we have to guarantee our immediate security.

The current series of treaties is not part of setting up a new Warsaw Pact or a Budapest pact. In my opinion, a whole system of bilateral treaties will emerge in our area that could form the basis of a collective European security within the foreseeable future.

'Expert' Comments on Regional Security Situation

AU0404092991 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 29 Mar 91 p 2

[Interview with Peter Deak, security policy expert, by Katalin Decsi; place and date not given: "Central-Eastern European Trap—Our Region in the Eyes of a Security Policy Expert"—first paragraph is NEPSZAVA introduction]

[Excerpts] Is it true that our region is a threat to security in Europe? What will the European collective security system be like? We asked Peter Deak to answer these questions.

[Deak] Central-Eastern Europe is the unstable part of our continent. The revolutionary changes that took place in the past two years led to a transition that carried an element of destabilization. This element of destabilization is present in three areas: We can find it within various countries, in the relations between various countries, and in the relations between various regions. The greatest problem facing Europe at present is that there is a lack of balance between the two parts of Europe. Western Europe is the world's most stable region, while the aforementioned unstable situation has emerged in Eastern Europe.

All this leads to a trap, because it makes it necessary for Western Europe to help to stabilize Eastern Europe. We need political and economic aid. However, foreign capital is not willing to take a risk and flow into an uncertain situation. Only a greater willingness to take risks on the part of the West could lead away from this trap. How far is the West willing to go?

Some sort of domestic upheaval prevails in the Eastern-Central European countries where the transition did not take place by peaceful means. The situation is unstable in Romania and Yugoslavia. Atrocities are also occurring in the CSFR, but I see the greatest danger in the Soviet Union. The domestic situation in Hungary, Poland, and the GDR [as published] is more stable.

[Decsi] What could be the consequences of such instability?

[Deak] It could lead to insecurity, and this, in turn, increases one's sense of danger. A tangible feeling of concern and distrust can be discerned among people and governments alike. This could also lead to internal turmoil or the presence of the military factor. [passage omitted]

[Decsi] Many people claim that the disbanding of the Warsaw Pact military organization has led to some sort of security vacuum in the Central-Eastern European region. Do you agree with this?

[Deak] Contrary to experts, politicians claim that there is no security vacuum. It is true that one cannot feel this in the daily political activity, because the various countries in Europe have contacts with each other. However, a "gray zone" emerges in areas where former institutional guarantees prevailed and then disappeared. The very fact that Soviet troops are still stationed in Hungary without any contract (albeit withdrawing) while the Warsaw Pact military organization will cease to exist beginning 1 April leads to an irregular situation.

However, there are factors in Europe which counterbalance this gray zone, such as the process of security in Europe with developed institutions. The various regional integration systems are a calming factor, too. Then we have NATO, which projects some sort of calm and stability, and this can affect the countries in our region.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on UN Troops to Iraq

AU0304141891 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 30 Mar 91 p 1

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Spokesman Janos Herman by an "E.T."-signed reporter; place and date not given: "The News Could Even Be True"—first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] According to UN sources, Hungary may well be asked to form part of the UN peace-keeping forces to be stationed in Iraq. Janos Herman confirmed this possibility, adding that only consultations had taken place so far, and that no official request had been made yet. Furthermore, we are still waiting for the official cease-fire, sine qua non.

[Herman] MTI already announced the news of Hungary's participation two weeks ago, claiming that Hungary had already been asked to fulfill this honorable task. At the time, I was only able to report on the coordination of preliminary notions. The situation has not evolved since then. Incidentally, the Hungarian response was that we were prepared to participate in this peace-keeping task, and that we would give a favorable answer to an eventual request.

[NEPSZABADSAG] When do you think the request might be made? Who will select the countries that will participate in this supervising unit?

[Herman] The UN Security Council is still discussing the cease-fire resolution to be signed with Iraq. The supervision of a cease-fire and peace-keeping will form part of a manifold UN task and action package. The Security Council resolution—which might be formulated by dawn—will give an international legal basis for the creation of a supervising unit. Following that, the general secretary of the UN—or in practice, the apparatus of the international organization—will be in charge of the actual organization, and worthy countries will be asked by the general secretary to take part in the military supervising unit.

[NEPSZABADSAG] What chances does Hungary stand of being asked to take part? How many Hungarian soldiers could be sent to Iraq?

[Herman] As you know, 15 Hungarian officers formed part of the unit that supervised the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, the warring factions of the previous Middle East war. Our officers were given recognition for their efforts, and that is why Hungary has been approached in advance this time. We would probably send the same number of soldiers as last time.

[NEPSZABADSAG] Who will finance this action?

[Herman] The UN will be allocating funds from its own budget. Naturally, the UN budget is made up of contributions from the member states.

Horn Makes Case for National Unity Government

AU0404100391 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 30 Mar 91 p 5

[Interview with Hungarian Socialist Party Chairman Gyula Horn by Irene Szabo; place and date not given: "Is Left-Wing Unity an Illusion?—We Need a National Unity Government"—first paragraph is NEPSZAVA introduction]

[Excerpts] Will there be a united left-wing in Hungary? Are the various ideas on the creation of a national unity government topical? Among other things, we spoke about these issues with Gyula Horn.

[Szabo] You declared recently that you could envisage cooperation with every parliamentary party under certain conditions. Is this some kind of political maneuver? Today, everyone in politics is proud of what party he does not like and does not talk with.

[Horn] The situation today is different from the one prevailing a few months ago. For example, as I see it, there is no desire to put the socialist faction in parliament under quarantine. I understand that many people use accusations to justify themselves, but I find this rather ludicrous. Most of our society agrees with this. It is a fact that our parliamentary parties have not considered the antecedents of the bloodless revolution and social transformations thoroughly enough to this very day. The self-dismantling of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] was unique in history. Moreover, our previous parliament that functioned until spring 1990, including its socialist faction, also carried out a historic deed. I would like to point out that in the agreement signed in September 1989, there was no mention whatsoever of the new power settling accounts with the old. Which is more noteworthy, the implementation of this agreement or the incorrectness of the intentions following the implementation of this agreement? [passage omitted]

[Szabo] Rumor has it that you are for a national unity government because you hope to play an important role in such a government

[Horn] If I said that we should create a national unity government, many people would immediately say that Horn wants to get into this government. This is not true, because I have never asked for any position. As for the essence of this question, I do not think that any of the six parliamentary parties today could govern alone. Life shows what the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] is capable of. In my opinion, the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] cannot come up with a better performance either. Therefore, the parliamentary parties

should concentrate their best forces into a government, including the independent forces. We should find a way out. I do not think that a grand coalition is the right thing because of the huge differences between the MDF and the SZDSZ concerning views and policy. Besides, only a miracle could lead to such a coalition, and there are no miracles in politics. Therefore, the only way to follow is the national unity government, one that would conduct a radically different policy from the current one; otherwise, the whole thing would be useless. We need a concrete program common to all the parties, not only to one party. [passage omitted]

Official on Consequences of Danube Diversion

LD0304131191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Interview with Government Commissioner Gyorgy Samsondi-Kiss by Janos Hollos; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] We are hearing contradictory reports about what is happening on the Slovak side of the Gabcikovo water barrage. According to certain reports, the Slovaks have started construction of the channel diverting the Danube, but the federal and Slovak governments immediately denied these reports. Now we have the Hungarian reaction. Janos Hollos questioned Government Commissioner Gyorgy Samsondi-Kiss:

[Hollos] According to reports in certain Czechoslovak newspapers, the Czechoslovak Government has started the construction of the channel necessary for diverting the Danube. Is this true?

[Samsondi-Kiss] Well, it is not true insofar as no actual construction has begun. The embassy has notified us of this—not officially, but since the announcement is not official either, we can accept this. We are very surprised that this has once again come up, and I have already pointed this out to our Czechoslovak partners. We are certain that this is only a planning phase; this is, in fact, the information they have given us.

[Hollos] Then, in your view, there is some foundation to the reports?

[Samsondi-Kiss] Naturally, the reports have some foundation.

[Hollos] So, have they started to plan the path of the channel?

[Samsondi-Kiss] They are calculating this in the economic sense and planning it, and they are carrying out studies of this as an alternative. They have not, however, set before us the fait accompli of construction as yet.

[Hollos] What is the Hungarian Government's stance should the Czechoslovaks really start to build this channel?

[Samsondi-Kiss] This would be counter to every kind of international regulation and agreement, because a common border river cannot be arbitrarily diverted. This would have very grave international consequences, and I do not believe that anyone would risk such a thing before the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, or the relevant committees of the EC, which are willing to deal with this matter because they know that this is a European problem. Its resolution could also set a precedent for relations between our countries.

[Hollos] How far does this problem place a burden on Hungarian-Czechoslovak relations?

[Samsondi-Kiss] The whole problem is a continuous burden on Hungarian-Czechoslovak relations. I see it as a thorn that will eventually have to be pulled out somehow.

[Hollos] What could the solution be?

[Samsondi-Kiss] Well, discussions will at last begin on a solution—substantive intergovernmental discussions—in the second half of April.

Kaczynski on Possible Pre-Election Alliances

AU0304153991 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 28 Mar pp 1, 2

[Interview with Jaroslaw Kaczynski, chairman of the Center Accord and chief of the Presidential Chancellery, by Ewa K. Czaczkowska; place and date not given: "It Is Difficult To Discuss Slogans"]

[Excerpts] [Czaczkowska] Tadeusz Mazowiecki, head of the Democratic Union, has publicly announced a possible pre-election "nonaggression pact" with the Center Accord. As Center Accord chairman, what do you think are the chances of such a pact? What spheres of life would it embrace?

[Kaczynski] The proposal is very vague. I do not know what to say, because I have only learned about it from the press, and politics cannot be pursued via the press. Even the press reports are vague. If it is to do with observing certain rules of political culture, then I have nothing against it. However, this topic requires discussion at the top level.

[Czaczkowska] Andrzej Urbanski, Center Accord organizational secretary; Piotr Nowina-Konopka from the Democratic Union; and other activists claim that the two sides have considered concluding a pre-election alliance and forming a coalition government. Is that true?

[Kaczynski] Right now I see no possibility of an alliance between the Center Accord and the Democratic Union because, to be honest, there are too many differences between us. As far as democratic and economic structures are concerned, we are quite similar to each other, but when it comes to ways of implementing these changes and choosing which cultural values to adhere to, there are major differences between us. It would be an artificial alliance. It would weaken our reform camp very much. A considerable number of people who support our program would simply leave us. We have clearly said what kind of alliance we want, a relationship with the citizens committees, peasants' movement, and the Solidarity movement.

[Czaczkowska] What other election alliances do you envisage?

[Kaczynski] There is a possibility of a peasants' alliance, although a class division like this is not the best idea, because it restricts the farmers to one single function which, although an important one, is connected solely with their occupation. There is also a possibility that the Forum of the Democratic Right and Liberal Democratic Congress may form a liberal bloc together. We would like to see both these groups on our side, but a few things would have to be clarified first, especially as far as the liberals are concerned. We in the Center Accord have a very strong liberal stream consisting of people whose liberal views apply mainly to economic matters. However, we are not in a position to cooperate with those liberals who think the church's influence in Poland should be restricted. Perhaps the Democratic Union will try to retain the Forum of the Democratic Right within its ranks. It has already made overtures toward the liberals and some Solidarity groups. The postcommunist left wing will try to attain something bigger, an alliance consisting of the Social Democratic Party of the Republic of Poland on the one hand and the Working People's Movement on the other, this movement being related to the "Proletariat" Polish Communist Party and enjoying the support of the National Trade Union Confederation. There is also a possibility of an alliance between Bartoszcze's Polish Peasants Party and what is left of the Labor Party. We would also like to proceed to the elections with smaller Christian Democrat groups. However, the situation is still very changeable, and it is difficult to say what kind of alliances will emerge. [passage omitted]

[Czaczkowska] After you had been appointed Center Accord chairman, you said you would resign from the chairmanship of the Presidential Chancellery. How do you reconcile these two posts, and what do you intend to do?

[Kaczynski] The post of chairman of the Center Accord does not carry much responsibility. The main burden of the work falls on the board of management. The chairman is a figurehead, as it were, a separate body. Therefore, contrary to my expectations, there is no conflict between the two posts. I have no specific plans right now. It is difficult to predict what kind of personnel changes will occur after the elections.

Solidarity-80 Calls Off Jurczyk-Boni Meeting

LD0304133991 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1100 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Michal Boni, the minister of labor and social policy, in a statement to PAP, states that despite an initial agreement to hold talks, Marian Jurczyk, the leader of Solidarity-80, called off today's meeting. The minister was and is of the opinion that, after meeting formal legal requirements, Solidarity-80 should be registered. He had wished to treat today's planned meeting not as private, but as a working discussion on the subject of Solidarity-80's demands.

Reportage on Lech Walesa Visit to Belgium

WA0304164791

For reportage on the visit by President Lech Walesa to Belgium, including reports on his talks with Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and the application for Poland's membership in the EC, see the INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS section of the 3 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Coposu on Political Crisis, Constitution

AU0304135691 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 28 Mar 91 p 1

[Interview with Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party, by Ion Frincu—place and date not given; first graf is DREPTATEA introduction: "Between Formal Invitations and the Reality of the Constitution"]

[Text] We were able to talk with Mr. Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNT-cd], for a few moments, on which occasion we asked him several questions on the latest political events.

[Frincu] Why did the PNT-cd leadership deem it necessary to ignore Mr. Iliescu's invitation for talks on 11 March?

[Coposu] President Iliescu's invitation to all political groupings did not match up to our call of last December for a dialogue with the Convention for the Establishment of Democracy; therefore, our formal presence at a heterogeneous meeting, which was an obvious publicity stint, was pointless.

[Frincu] You have participated in such meetings before, although less was said about them. Can you tell us more about these meetings, so as to fully clarify their context?

[Coposu] This sort of meeting merely consisted of an expose (on the political situation, which was usually well-known), followed by several positive assessments of the government's merits and performance (made by representatives of the majority party and their acolytes) and occasionally by questions put by opposition representatives, who were then given only general and inconclusive replies.

[Frincu] What kind of results would you expect from a meeting like the one you have suggested?

[Coposu] I would expect concrete solutions for overcoming the crisis, without the usual reservations designed to preserve the current structures, which have shown that they are unable to achieve their objectives.

[Frincu] Was this nonparticipation an individual decision or was it jointly taken by all members of the Convention?

[Coposu] The last decision was taken with the unanimous approval of all Convention representatives.

[Frincu] How do you assess the withdrawal of the Ecologist Movement [MER] from the Convention? Or the reasons given by Mr. Bleahu [leader of the Ecologist Movement]?

[Coposu] Negatively. The reason invoked is a joke. The Convention was not set up to ensure that our country obtains the status of special guest in Strasbourg. As it is obvious from its name, the aim of the National Convention for the Establishment of Democracy is to establish democracy. I believe it would be ridiculous to claim that democracy has already been established in our country. Also unfounded is the subsequent explanation that a further MER participation in the Convention would have alienated the movement's rank and file members from the leadership. Maybe our former partner or some of its decisionmaking factors wanted to relieve themselves of the duty of having to join efforts with other parties in would-be negotiations with the political power, or maybe they even want to abandon the opposition line, which I find rather unlikely.

[Frincu] What can you tell us about the Antitotalitarian Democratic Forum of Romania and its goal?

[Coposu] The 40 antitotalitarian forums set up in all the country's counties worked out their programs and statutes at the congress held in Cluj last winter. To ensure their smooth and harmonious functioning, the forums decided to subordinate themselves to the headquarters of the parties that adhered to the respective county groupings when they were set up, in accordance with the specific provisions of their statutes. The goal is to consolidate the anticommunist opposition, ensure that it participates in the coming administrative elections on single lists, and work out a joint strategy in pooling all efforts to counteract the totalitarian tendencies within the governmental structures.

[Frincu] What is your opinion about a joint session, in Iasi, of the Parliaments of Romania and of Moldova from across the Prut River?

[Coposu] I believe this initiative is welcome. Our state must lend its moral support to the struggle for sovereignty of the Romanians across the Prut River.

[Frincu] What is your opinion about the Parliament proceedings on drafting the new Constitution?

[Coposu] The government's method of presenting "constitutional theses" in the Parliament appears clumsy and pointless; its sole purpose is to prolong the debates. The draft constitution should be submitted to Parliament so it can examine it article by article. The procedure adopted thus far will only lead to the same stands being repeated when the articles of the draft constitution are examined. After careful study, highly competent PNT-cd experts have worked out a much better draft constitution than the one resulting from the "theses" presented by the government. This draft could serve as a basis for discussion in Parliament, particularly since it was positively assessed both by foreign constitutional experts and by Romanian lawyers.

I hope that we can agree on a basic formula that will ensure basic human rights and constitutionally guarantee individual and collective freedoms—the foundation of democratic institutions and the rule of law. Likewise, I hope that one would renounce the obvious attempt—quite obvious from the "theses"—to establish a much coveted but detestable presidential republic in our country [without consulting the people in a referendum].

[Frincu] A draft law has been submitted to the Romanian Parliament that has formally been given the title

"Law on Punishing Certain Violations of Press Freedom," whereas the exact opposite is the case. As a former journalist yourself, how do you view this law?

[Coposu] The attempt by those in political power to pass through Parliament a draft press law with unacceptable contents is shameful. In a rule-of-law state that proclaims that it endorses democratic principles, it is inconceivable that one should strive to choke the press through typically Stalinist provisions of an obviously retrograde and reactionary nature. I hope that the draft bill in question will be withdrawn before it attracts the censure of the civilized world and the indignation of Romanian public opinion.

[Frincu] Since the "Convention's Message to the Nation" was released in the mass media, in conclusion we would like you to tell us something about this event.

[Coposu] The Convention's message to the nation for the establishment of democracy in Romania was worked out in February 1991 and finalized only on 19 March at a joint session of the parties belonging to the Convention. The fact that it was published on the very day when the ALFA trade union happened to organize a protest march in support of their professional claims is a mere coincidence.

As a matter of fact, the message denounces certain mistakes that are known to the public and it presents solutions published in our press.

[Frincu] Mr. President, thank you for these most interesting statements.

Nastase Interviewed on Treaty With USSR

AU0304152691 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 28 Mar 91 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Adrian Nastase by Aurel Perva; place and date not given: "I Do Not Think That the Soviet Union Proposes To Influence Political Processes in Our Country at this Point"]

[Text] [Perva] I will not ask you: Why conclude a treaty with the USSR? Why conclude this treaty now, however?

[Nastase] I believe that this treaty, which we have concluded in Moscow, has emerged because of the collapse of the legal structures which preserved the cold war period. Thus our relations with the USSR were and—up to the point when the new treaty comes into force—will continue to be governed by a treaty dating back to 1970 which means mainly a bilateral military alliance. At the same time, institutional changes have appeared. I am talking about the military dismantlement of the Warsaw Pact on 1 April and it will probably be dismantled from a political point of view by the end of the year. This has generated the need to protect the national security interests of the states in Eastern Europe on a new basis that will bear in mind the CSCE documents, including the Paris Charter. Thus a reorientation of the Eastern European countries toward bilateral relations took place; these relations have to be formally established through bilateral treaties. We, for instance, have sent such draft treaties to several European countries (France, Italy, Turkey, Greece, Spain and so forth) and the same processes are taking place in the USSR, which has concluded such treaties with France, Italy, and Germany. At the intersection of these processes the need for a new Romanian-Soviet treaty emerged, which is to bear in mind all these developments. From the point of view of its contents, our treaty fully fits into the range of treaties concluded by France, Italy, and Turkey with the Soviet Union. Apart from these objective elements, which generated the need to replace former legal relations with a new and modern formula of political cooperation, it was important that, after efforts to get connected to the West European mechanism, we begin a period of planning and organizing relations with our neighbors. Moreover, I do not believe that it is of any help for us to think that there is nothing beyond our eastern border. Therefore, despite the risks implied by broaching these problems openly, which for us have certain ideological connotations and which may give birth to criticism that—in our view—lacks any geopolitical foundation, we decided to discuss relations with the Soviet Union in an open and responsible way.

[Perva] Is this another way in which efforts are made to fill the gap in the security structures in our area, something which you also discussed during your last meeting with the press?

[Nastase] These bilateral treaties would be the first level of the European security construction. Certain regional and sub-regional agreements will be added, while the main level will consist of a pan-European collective security mechanism.

[Perva] Do you believe that the USSR may still influence political developments in Romania?

[Nastase] I think that the political developments in Romania will be influenced by us if we are both wise and dignified. I do not believe that the Soviet Union proposes to influence political processes in our country at this point; it has enough problems to solve at home, while for us it is important that the relations we maintain with the Soviet Union be dealt with directly and not thought out by a third party.

[Perva] Do you believe that the USSR will be a factor of balance or imbalance in Romanian-Hungarian relations?

[Nastase] I believe that we are going through a process of positive developments in our political relations with Hungary. Certainly, problems still exist, there are difficulties and antagonistic mentalities and even extremist temptations, but several tangible actions have been

taken such as: The conclusion of the Open Skies Treaty, a protocol on cultural exchange, a military accord, the opening of cultural centers in Budapest and Bucharest, consultations on consular problems and on the situation of Romanians in Hungary and of Hungarians in Romania. This proves that, through a pragmatic approach, we are able to continue step by step. I believe it is not necessary nor desirable that relations between Romania and Hungary be worked out by another state.

[Perva] Mr. Minister, how was the idea of signing a treaty with the USSR received in Chisinau [Kishinev] if we consider current developments in Bessarabia?

[Nastase] In Chisinau it was important, on the one hand, to explain what the treaty consists of and, in our turn, to understand the strategy of affirming the Moldova Republic's sovereignty. From this point of view, there is nothing adversarial between the treaty initialed in Moscow and the affirmation of the Republic of Moldova as a sovereign state; moreover, the treaty and its provisions, especially Article 20, which refers to the possibility of various relations with the republics of the Soviet Union, permit the development of intensive cultural and economic relations.

[Perva] In your opinion, which of Nicolae Titulescu's ideas is of great topicality?

[Nastase] It is difficult to quote just one idea. I will try, but I will refer to...two ideas. The first, in my opinion, would be organizing peace, an idea that seems to me extremely topical. Furthermore, the second one is the one referring to reduction of borders to mere symbols.

Treaty Not Against Moldova

AU0404090891 Bucharest LIBERTATEA in Romanian 28-29 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Adrian Nastase by Octavian Andronic; place and date not given: "The Treaty With the USSR Is Not to the Detriment of the Interests of Romanians in the Republic of Moldova"—first paragraph is LIBERTATEA introduction]

[Text] I talked to Mr. Adrian Nastase during a short "respite" between two European trips! Just after returning from Chisinau [Kishinev], he was packing his suitcase to go to Warsaw. The subject I proposed, obviously, was the treaty initialed in Moscow and its implications for Romania—which, this time, were not late in emerging, doing so even before the Romanian delegation had crossed the river Prut.

[Andronic] Mr. Minister, what has been initialed in Moscow? (because I understand that the signing of the treaty is the prerogative of the two parliament).

[Nastase] The treaty that has been initialed (but has not been signed) in Moscow constitutes the legal form of a new type of relations which we desire with the Soviet Union. I am talking about a relationship that should no longer be based on a military alliance. At the same time, we want to instill European values into our bilateral relations and base them on the principles of the CSCE. We believe that, adopting a responsible approach, we are not entitled to ignore our relations in the East. From this point of view, the only problem that may arise for the Romanian public is whether this accord, which is obviously necessary to illustrate the type of relations we are to establish with the Soviet Union, protects and expresses Romanian national interests. I believe that when examining the treaty that we have negotiated with the Soviets, we should also make a comparative study of the treaties concluded with the Soviet Union by France, Italy, and Germany. And from this viewpoint, I believe that our treaty belongs in the same category, being an expression of the understanding between two equal countries proposing to develop their cooperation. The question asked by numerous public opinion representatives is whether this treaty is to the detriment of the interests of Romanians in the Republic of Moldova. My answer is very clear: No! And this is because the problem of accepting a principle incorporated in all international documents, including the CSCE documents and the treaties concluded by the Soviet Union with the said countries, is of no relevance for the new situation that prevails in the Republic of Moldova. Through its declaration of sovereignty adopted by the parliament in the fall of last year, the Republic of Moldova affirmed its desire to gradually assert its sovereign prerogatives, including—after a certain period of time—independence, and from this viewpoint the essential question is not that of borders, but that of the expression of the right to self-determination by Romanians in the Republic of Moldova, who are building a sovereign state. This is a new situation, and one which we have to bear in mind. In clarifying it, we are able to proceed to the second stage, namely that of organizing contacts, cultural, and economic links, while at the same time we are able to develop relations with Moscow properly, with our heads up, and with dignity, by placing ourselves in a context that I would call geo-historic.

[Andronic] On Sunday one could hear in Chisinau, apart from well-known slogans, a new slogan, which has never been heard before: "Down with Nastase!" What happened there? What do you think generated it?

[Nastase] I think that we are dealing with a misunderstanding of the problem in question. There are people who have simply ignored the contents of the treaty we have initialed, that is, without reading it, and who are probably extremely happy with their illusions. It is very difficult to deal with illusions. Politics belong to a different sphere and I believe that there will always be romantic and emotional reactions. I am of the opinion that such a reaction is not permissible in our foreign policy.

[Andronic] People in our country harbor the illusion that the Republic of Moldova is just waiting to throw itself into our arms....

[Nastase] Yes, Mr. Snegur himself made a humorous remark on this, namely that—at least under the current circumstances—two poverty-ridden countries were to unite.

[Andronic] One could say that this tour has been the beginning of the spring offensive for Romanian diplomacy....

[Nastase] I am going to Poland on a two-day visit, then on Sunday [31 March], the Turkish foreign minister will arrive in Bucharest and will stay until Tuesday [2 April]. On Wednesday [3 April] I am going to Germany on a visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister Genscher.

[Andronic] And so forth. Is this the formula for active diplomacy or an exceptional historic requirement?

[Nastase] Probably both.

Roman Criticizes Corruption in Trade Network

AU0304174191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1656 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/4/1991—Without trying to conceal the shortage of goods on the Romanian market, Prime Minister Petre Roman termed the way the existing merchandise is made available to the consumer as "worrying."

Addressing his cabinet colleagues at the weekly government meeting, Mr. Roman said that at the moment "the state-run public catering is corrupt and anti-citizen," while private trade has made inaccessible prices for the Romanian citizens a rule.

The time has come, said the premier, for the authorities to cross the border from taking note to acting by summoning the competent bodies to take severe measures, says radio Bucharest, which quotes the prime minister. He mainly referred to the police of whom he demanded immediate action against culprits—both by fining and indictment. Those governmental bodies incapable to act accordingly must be disbanded, stated the premier asking the trade minister to take such steps as to stop the drain of goods, many of which are state subsidized, from the public catering network to private traders, that humiliate this country's citizens by black market prices. If the home trade department cannot solve the problem in a month, it will simply be disbanded because, as Mr. Roman put it "anyway the people that run and master the home trade are the same as before."

Doina Cornea: Western Aid Absolutely Necessary

AU0304143691 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 29 Mar 91 p 2

[Interview with Doina Cornea by Virgil Lazar; place and date not given: "Doina Cornea—Western Aid Is Absolutely Necessary for Romania's Economy"—first paragraph is ROMANIA LIBERA introduction]

[Excerpts] There was an exiting event at Otopeni Airport at noon yesterday: Returning home from France and Belgium, Mrs. Doina Cornea was met by a group of young people who welcomed her and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of tulips.

[Lazar] What is Romania's image abroad?

[Cornea] I noted that at this point the West has very little information about Romanian realities, and the public is being disinformed by the current government. Perhaps our situation is not of great interest any more after the campaign in the Gulf.

[Lazar] I know you had a busy program. Could you sum it up?

[Cornea] Let my try. I had numerous interviews in the press, on radio, and on television. [passage omitted] I held a news conference at the Foreign Relations Institute in Paris followed by a dialogue with its members, mainly political figures and businessmen. The subject discussed was "Romania—the Difficult Road to Democracy." We discussed questions linked to human rights violations in Romania, including the surveillance of people, the difficulties created for the opposition press, and the totalitarian tendency of the new leaders. I pointed out that the current leaders are no alternative to the former communist regime, bearing in mind the constant neocommunist methods and mentalities that they, unfortunately, practice and represent. I also mentioned that a real alternative does exist among the ranks of the united opposition within the Democratic Antitotalitarian Front and the Civic Alliance. An interview for "Telecom" dealt with the draft press law issued by the government and its aberrant provisions on punishing journalists for criticizing the institution of the state. During my meetings, I came up with the idea and launched an appeal to all French newspapers to sponsor an independent Romanian publication each or a publication of an opposition party, supporting it materially and morally. I also pointed out that a constitutional monarchy would also be an alternative to the current presidency and stressed its advantages: It would be a guarantee that Romania breaks with communism and Moscow once and for all; it would certainly increase our country's stability, thus attracting foreign investors; and it would reestablish Romania's prestige in the world.

[Lazar] I know that you also discussed the issue of aid for Romania.

[Cornea] Certainly, in numerous interviews and during almost all my meetings, including the meeting with Mrs. Danielle Spengler, who is in charge of scientific and technical cooperation with Romania within the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I discussed the problem of Western aid, which is absolutely necessary for repairing our economy, but which must only be granted on two conditions: That the government's intention to decentralize the economy is observed and that funds obtained in this way are made public. [passage omitted]

Barladeanu: People Used To Live Better

AU0304140391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1300 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 3/4/1991—"I agreed with and backed the reform in Romania from the very beginning" said Mr. Alexandru Barladeanu in an interview granted to daily "CURIERUL NATIONAL," underscoring at the same time that "being in favor of the reform does not mean saying 'yes' all the time or clapping your hands enthusiastically, especially at the moments when you don't understand what is going on..."

He accused those members of the government, especially Mr. Adrian Severin, who make the reform—the way they see it—into a new religion, and those who feel differently are declared "heretics" and "excommunicated." "This runs counter to political pluralism."

Mr. Barladeanu criticised the government's policy concerning the Romanian industry, upholding that although pharaonic and deformed, it was not to be abandoned until the implementation of the market economy.

In another string of ideas, Mr. Barladeanu pointed out that he had been a member of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party - PCR] nomenklatura for a short while (1963-1968), dealing only with the economy, not with ideology or repression, and appreciated that in those times "people used to live better than nowadays." He also reminded that ever since 1968 he had been against Ceausescu.

Asked "how long did he think he would stay president of the Senate," Mr. Barladeanu answered: "As long as the plenum wishes to keep me. I can leave even now, without regrets except the one of not having been able to impose observance of the parliament's rights, which is a primordial condition in any democracy."

Intellectuals Want Barladeanu Removed

AU0404075691

[Editorial Report] Bucharest daily ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian on 29 March carries on page 1—under the bold-faced headline "Mr. Alexandru Barladeanu's Academician Title Is Contested by the Romanian Intelligentsia"—a full-page, 5,000-word boxed-in appeal by some 500 intellectuals protesting Senate President Alexandru Barladeanu's status as member and vice president of the Romanian Academy. The appeal reads as follows:

"Mr. President of the Romanian Academy:

"Election to the Romanian Academy is the crowning of prestigious work in the fields of science and culture and establishes for good the personality of the chosen ones in the intellectual awareness of their country. From the time it was founded, the Romanian Academy always strived—until the beginning of the communist era—to give its high endorsement only to those who, through the value of their work and moral qualities, represented the country's spiritual assets. The demolition of genuine values—initiated by communism in Romania—made it possible for impostors and mediocre individuals to enter this forum.

"In spite of the fact that, through meritorious efforts, the Romanian Academy has as far as possible preserved its institutional honor, it was not able to avoid making certain compromises, such as granting the highest scientific distinction to persons whose presence in the country's highest scientific forum is not supported by either their work or moral standing.

"Convinced that it is essential to reestablish a correct scale of values and skills to bring about the material and moral recovery of Romanian society—which is still seriously affected by confused criteria—we ask you to convene a plenum of the Romanian Academy to consider whether Mr. Alexandru Barladeanu deserves to remain a member and its vice president.

"There is no information to show that Mr. Barladeanu has ever written any scientific work. Despite certain assertions to the contrary, Mr. Barladeanu's practical work cannot be considered a substitute for scientific work, particularly since his economic activity was carried out at a time when the country's economy was subjected to unprecedented spoliation and bankrupt orientations, the dramatic effects of which can be felt to this day.

"For these reasons, we believe that keeping as a member and vice president of the Academy a person whose activity has never served the high ideals embodied by this academic institution—for reasons of strictly political opportuneness—is incompatible with the prestige of the Romanian Academy."

The above text is followed by the names of the signatories—most of them university lecturers, doctors, and engineers.

A note at the bottom of the page reads as follows: "Those who wish to add their signatures to this appeal can do so at the headquarters of 'University Solidarity,' Bucharest, Balcescu Boulevard No. 1, ground floor"

FSN Blames Barladeanu for Delaying Reform Laws

AU0304140691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1304 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 3/4/1991—The stand taken by Mr. Alexandru Barladeanu lately, writes Prof. Mera, chairman of the Vaslui FSN [National Salvation Front] Coordinating Council, in an article in the press organ of the National Salvation Front "AZI," is a blow under the belt which might disconcert some members of our party and part of the electorate. In the author's opinion the respective blow took nobody by surprise. He reminded that ever since the presentation of the programme of the government formed by Premier Petre

Roman Mr. Barladeanu had undertaken to delay the elaboration of the reform laws.

After we witnessed, for over a year, the power's fight against any opposition, daily "ROMANIA LIBERA" reads, here is the second part of the superproduction with the fight waged within the FSN itself... The sad thing is that not even Jesus Christ, the resurrection of whom we are awaiting, can take us out of the disaster into which we stepped, smiling, about a year ago.

Melescanu on UN Projects, Treaty With USSR

AU0404133491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1224 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 4/4/1991—Today, April 4, during the weekly Foreign Ministry press conference, Secretary of State Theodor Melescanu made the following statement:

Over March 1-3, Mr. Erich Bosse, UNDP [United Nations Development Program] expert, was in Romania to identify the programme's assistance possibilities in the field of environment improvement in Romania. Following talks at the Environment and Health Ministries a project was adopted to elaborate and implement methods to evaluate the environmental impact of industrial activities in the country's most polluted areas. Also, the project of technical assistance for the Romanian customs' informatisation, signed on March 28, is part of the "Sydonia" UNDP project and will be co-financed by the Romanian and French Governments and the UNDP, its total value over two years amounting to 3.9 million dollars.

Romania has decided to join the unofficial group of 16 countries known as the missile technologies control regime, and the Foreign Ministry has started the necessary demarches to this effect.

The Romanian Mission at the United Nations has been authorised to back any humanitarian action aimed at helping defuse the tension caused by the exodus of the Kurd population from Iraq.

The Australian Government has decided to grant Romania a 40 million dollars credit for a period of 240 to 360 days, depending on the nature of the goods imported from Australia. The Romanian Foreign Ministry appreciates this decision will revigorate the trade between Romania and Australia.

The Romanian Embassy in Kuwait—one of the last to pull out before the start of the Gulf War and one of the first back in operation (starting March 23)—is taking steps to carry into effect the agreements on principle regarding cooperation in Kuwait's reconstruction. A number of such projects have already been identified and preparations are being made to send a delegation to Kuwait in order to make concrete evaluations.

Lastly, the cooperation and friendship agreement between Romania and the USSR will be signed by the two presidents practically in its present form during President Iliescu's visit to the USSR—to start this afternoon—and will be released to the media provided the two sides agree upon it. The Romanian Foreign Ministry by all means favors the release, as there is no secret about the agreement's text.

Assembly Hears Internal Affairs Report

LD0404101591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0842 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 4 Apr (TANJUG)—The security situation in the country is extremely difficult and complicated. This manifests itself in interethnic and inter-republic conflicts and a serious constitutional crisis, Petar Misovic, assistant federal secretary for internal affairs, said today in a report to the SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber on the current political situation in Yugoslavia.

Within its powers and capacity, the Federal Internal Affairs Secretariat [SSUP] has been actively monitoring the situation. The federal secretary for internal affairs is at the moment at the Federal Secretariat with a group of inspectors and key workers who are directly involved in the efforts to prevent the situation from escalating. At the moment, the most important task is to monitor and assess the situation in Croatia, and in cooperation with the Croatian Internal Affairs Ministry, help defuse it to prevent further armed clashes, Misovic said.

The federal secretary persistently pleaded against a clash at Plitvice. He received assurances that efforts would be directed at finding a peaceful solution, and that there were no movements of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP] units. Once the intervention took place, the federal secretary decided to send an operative group of inspectors, with the priority task of halting the clashes and preventing further bloodshed, and to keep the federal secretary fully and promptly informed about the situation.

This group is still in Titova Korenica, where it has been working with MUP representatives, the Yugoslav People's Army, and the Titova Korenica authorities on defusing the situation. The federal secretary is in permanent contact with the group.

The federal secretary kept the SFRY Presidency and the president of the Federal Executive Council [FEC] regularly informed about developments. On the basis of assessments and proposals by the Federal Secretariat for National Defense and the SSUP, the SFRY Presidency passed a decision on 31 March on an unconditional cease-fire and the withdrawl of all the units deployed by the Croatian Internal Affairs Ministry and the Knin Internal Affairs Secretariat.

The SFRY Presidency decision has only partly been implemented. There has been a cease-fire, and the MUP special forces and the Krajina Internal Affairs Secretariat have been withdrawn.

There are still about 100 regular policemen in the area of Plitvice and Ljubovo, however. Therefore, it can be concluded that the SFRY Presidency decision has not been fully complied with. This is an added burden on the security situation in general.

On several occasions in this chamber we warned of the possibility of an armed conflict. Now we are faced with a civil war. We nevertheless expect that a peaceful solution will be found and that there will be no further clashes.

There is a large amount of anxiety and fear among the country's citizens for Yugoslavia's future. After the latest armed clashes this fear is even greater. Utmost efforts must be made to prevent further clashes and to resolve the country's problems peacefully. We recommend that this body, as the highest representative service, pass conclusions to this end.

Regarding the demonstrations in Belgrade on 9 March, the SSUP has informed the Federal Chamber's Internal Policy Committee about the main elements of the events. A more detailed report will be submitted as soon as the Serbian Assembly completes its own debate and takes stands on a report by its enquiry committee, which as you know, has been compiled in light of the contrasting views and assessments of the events in Belgrade.

On 9 March, the SSUP took measures within its powers designed to enhance the security of the federal authorities and this assembly, in particular, and of the foreign diplomatic and consular missions.

A full report by the SSUP on the events in Pakrac has been submitted to you after it was endorsed by the FEC.

Presidency Views Political, Security Situation

LD0304160291 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] The SFRY Presidency held a session today presided over by President Borisav Jovic. Also taking part in its work were the president of the SFRY Assembly, the president of the Federal Executive Council [FEC], the federal secretaries for internal and foreign affairs and national defense, and all presidents of the republics, or republican presidencies.

The political and security situation in the country was assessed as very serious with the danger for further deterioration. It was concluded that such a situation requires a more effective resolution of the fundamental problems of the country, without which it is not possible to find a more lasting solution to the current political and security problems. The securing of peace in the country is the basic prerequisite for the normal work of the services responsible for finding a way out of the political crisis. It was therefore emphasized that it is essential for everyone to refrain from activities that hamper the peaceful search for a way out of the crisis, and in particular, to avoid unconstitutional and illegal behavior, and the use of force and violence.

With the aim of speeding up work on resolving the political crisis in the country, in the coming days there will be no relaxing of the effort to find solutions and the organization of work to realize these solutions. It was

also assessed that (?with) the recovery of the system at a critical phase, it is necessary to insure the essential conditions for its functioning. It is essential to revive the talks between the responsible services of the republics and the FEC as soon as possible and to inform the SFRY Presidency and republican presidencies of the results by the end of next week.

The SFRY Presidency decided that during April it will inform the SFRY Assembly about its activities to find solutions for future relations in the Yugoslav community, and for political and security situation in the country.

Officials Troubled by Bush 'Support' for Markovic

LD0304124191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1003 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, April 3 (TANJUG)—President Bush's support for Prime Minister Markovic and Yugoslavia is troubling the republican leaders "who may lose some of their power if economic and political reforms are carried out in the country."

The paper close to the federal government holds that Bush's letter to Markovic worries those "whose policy can no longer obtain support from anywhere or anybody." They would like to "extend their own isolation on to the rest of the country" and thus impose, "without outside interference," their own project of Yugoslavia's reorganization on the others, it adds.

Worried most by Bush's message are Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, says BORBA.

The paper recalls Bush's statement in the letter to Markovic that the problems facing Yugoslavia can only be resolved by means of democracy, reforms and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and that the United States will give no preference to any ethnic group in Yugoslavia and "will not encourage or reward those who would like to break it up."

BORBA notes that many of these positions are publicly advocated by the republican leaders and asks whether they "champion them just like that, while tending to something else in reality."

Vukovar Official Says Tensions Easing

LD0304201491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1910 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Statement by Slavko Degoricija, Croatian Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, in Vukovar on 3 April]

[Text] Vukovar, 3 Apr (TANJUG)—I am pleased to be able to say that tensions in all areas in Croatia, and in the Vukovar region, are easing.

In talks with [Croatian] Assembly delegates and party leaders from the Vukovar municipality, Degoricija stressed that a moratorium has been imposed on any form of action in the next few days, to create conditions for the commencement of talks and a more normal perception of the crisis.

Titova Korenica 'a Little More Peaceful'

AU0304164091 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Djordje Vlajic report from Titova Korenica]

[Text] Although one could say that it is a little more peaceful in Titova Korenica now than it was during the recent days, it is difficult to say that tension has eased. The reason for such a conclusion is the presence of Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP] forces, who do not appear to be planning to withdraw from Plitvice and the Titova Korenica Commune. Therefore, the Communal National Defense Council, considering the presence of the Croatian police to be an occupation of a part of the region belonging to the Titova Korenica, demands that the SFRY Presidency ensure an unconditional and urgent withdrawal of the forces of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs by midnight on 3 April. If this is not done, the SFRY Presidency will have to bear the responsibility for the consequences, the demand states.

The intention of the Croatian police not to withdraw from this region is now obvious. Preparations at the Plitvice police station are under way. Ninety constables will leave the Plitvice Hotel tomorrow and move to the police station building. According to a commander [zapovednik] who asked us not to mention his name, there are both Serbs and Croats among the constables and, as he said, they will try to establish cooperation with the local population whatever their national affiliation. This police station will be under direct command of the Gospic police.

When asked how long the Army will remain in the region, Lieutenant General Andrija Raseta, deputy commander of the Fifth Army District, said that it will remain as long as necessary. General Raseta said that it is a mixed unit of the Yugoslav People's Army equipped for any activity. According to him, the Army has not fired a single bullet so far, which means that nobody has opened fire at the soldiers either.

General Raseta claims that there is no cooperation between the Army and the MUP forces, whose special units are positioned around the Village of Ljubovo, to the west of Vrhovina, and between Grabovac and Slunj where they have strong [jace] forces.

The local people are particularly carefully following the news about the negotiations within the SFRY Presidency and the contacts Milan Babic, president of the Executive Council of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina, has been having with the Croatian authorities.

A very large number of refugees from Plitvice and surrounding villages have been accommodated in the Pljesevica Hotel and private homes in Titova Korenica.

Protests Continue in Vinkovci; Shots Fired

LD0304165591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1606 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Vinkovci, 3 Apr (TANJUG)—Following this morning's protest rally of several hundred citizens over the passage of Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] troops through the Vinkovci railroad station, small groups of people are circling Vinkovci shouting "This is Croatia." Shots are being sporadically fired in the air.

Around 1500 several cars with Croatian flags circled the town sounding their horns. They even passed around the JNA barracks and the garrison command in Vinkovci. Soon afterwards, members of the special forces of the Croatian Ministry for Internal Affairs arrived. At the moment they are securing the approaches to the barracks. There is still no official information about today's developments, but it has been established that today's events started with this morning's passage of a military transport through the local railroad station, which resulted in the protest rally.

Before the protest rally began, the military transport left the Vinkovci railroad station, following a brief break. Local radio stations have reported that the military transport stopped in the village of Vrpolje on the Vinkovci-Zagreb railroad, in the face of fresh protest rallies.

Peaceful Resolution of Dalj Crisis Reported

LD0304203191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1749 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Summary] Dalj, 3 Apr (TANJUG)—According to information obtained from the head of the police administration in Osijek, Petar Biocic, the crisis in Dalj has been resolved peacefully after three Dalj inhabitants, whose arrest sparked off a protest rally of 500 inhabitants of the village, were released, following their admission to charges of illegally possessing and carrying firearms. Criminal charges will be brought against them.

Explosion Damages Biograd Region Water Pipeline

LD0404083491 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] The region covering Zadar, Biokovo, Obrovac, and Benkovac municipalities was again not spared provocations, random shooting and explosions overnight. In the village of Vrana, in the Biograd municipality, unknown persons planted explosive beneath a water pipeline supplying Pakostane reservoir. A powerful explosion destroyed about 10 meters of the pipeline. An investigation is underway.

Croats were again disturbed in their homes in the Benkovac municipality overnight. They were provoked, harassed, and insulted by people in civilian clothes, accompanied by policemen of the so-called internal affairs secretariat of Krajina.

After a day's interruption, water supplies in all the affected areas are now normal.

Explosions, Shooting Reported in Lovinac

LD0404074791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0657 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Gospic, 4 Apr (TANJUG)—Several powerful explosions shortly after 0500 today shook the center of Lovinac, about 30 kilometers southeast of Gospic. Random shooting could also be heard in the village. There has been no official report, but there is evidence of [word indistinct] on several administrative buildings.

People started gathering in the center of Lovinac about 0800.

Plitvice Police Chief on Local Cooperation

LD0304173191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1747 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Plitvice, 3 Apr (TANJUG)—The only task we have had so far has been to establish the police station and control over the buildings around it, the commander of the Plitvice police station, a 30-year old inspector who said he does not have the authority to disclose his name, told a TANJUG reporter today.

According to him, the Plitvice police station has been working officially since yesterday morning. The arrival of the unit of the reserve forces of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs coincides with the departure of the special units that arrived in the area of the Plitvice national park on Sunday.

As the commander of this station, I have not yet had contacts with the officers of the Yugoslav People's Army, since they know that we are here as regular forces. If it becomes necessary, we will get in contact with them, the Plitvice police station commander said. So far, he stressed, cooperation has been good with the forces that we have replaced; I see no reason for it not to continue in this way. We will probably quickly establish contact with local people so we can receive all delegations that wish to come, regardless of their nationality. We will listen to them and attempt to find a common language, the Plitvice police station commander said, explaining what his unit intends to do.

This unit consists of 90 men and is accommodated at the Hotel Plitvice. They include Croats, Muslims, and Serbs.

Krajina Official on Expelling Croatian Police

LD0304161891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1501 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Knin, 3 April (TANJUG)—There is no way we will allow a Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs police station to be set up at Plitvice. We will wait a while to see what the Army will do and if they do not resolve the problem we will drive them all out in a way we will consider to be the most efficient.

This was said during the news conference today by Milan Martic, the top man in the Krajina Secretariat of Internal Affairs, who also stressed that despite the fact that there has been a considerable loss of confidence in the Yugoslav People's Army, the Croatian press report today that "terrorists from Civljane had fired on an armored troop carrier and a bus" was untrue. This information is part and parcel of a scenario to upset the traditionally good relations between the Serbs and the Army, said Martic.

Martic expressed his conviction that Slobodan Milosevic will arm the Serbs in Croatia. "In view of the fact that the Croatian state has armed the Croats, it is normal for the Serbian state to arm its people, to establish a balance." Martic said that 30,000 people from Krajina have volunteered so far to defend Krajina and Knin.

Military District Command Denies Seizing Arms

LD0304204791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2013 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, 3 Apr (TANJUG)—The information service of the Fifth Military District command issued a statement this evening regarding "the rumors on the confiscation of weapons from the population by the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA]."

The statement says: "Rumors and claims are being circulated on all sides that JNA units throughout the Plitvice Lakes and Titova Korenica region have been confiscating weapons from the local population, including hunting weapons."

"The Fifth Military District command firmly rejects the deliberate and tendentious claims of any confiscation of weapons from the population and regards all this as provocations to damage the Army's reputation," the statement concludes.

Rumors About Water Poisoning in Knin Denied

AU0304195091 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Danko Peric report from Knin]

[Text] For the last two days, the people of Knin have been upset by the report that the water of the Zrmanja and Cetina Rivers has been poisoned. The report was carried last night by the Center for Information and Warning based on data received from the Knin Communal Civilian Protection Staff. Although no analyses of the samples have been carried out yet, Sanitary Inspector Dr. Vera Loncar told us a few minutes ago that the corresponding institute in Split had sent assurances that water samples taken from the Cetina River down stream from Vrnika had proven to be safe. We have also heard that this is also the case with the first analyses carried out in Zadar of the water samples taken last night from the Zrmanja River, which supplies Zadar.

Knin school children went to school today for the first time since the Sunday conflict at Plitvice. Classes in Benkovac, however, have been interrupted as of this morning. Ethnic Croatian children did not go to school, so ethnic Serbian children have also been allowed to go home and schools will be closed until further notice.

Last night, explosives were set in several coffee houses owned by ethnic Croats. Dynamite was also planted in a refrigerator truck [hladnjaca].

In a public statement, Benkovac Communal President Zdravko Zecevic claims that the scenario is clear—one should create a cause for units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [of Croatia] to intervene.

We have just learned at the Knin Secretariat for Internal Affairs that two Knin citizens who were arrested at Plitvice and have been kept in a prison hospital or some other hospital in Zagreb were not been released at noon. Therefore, the two constables, who were to have been released in exchange, have been kept at the Knin Secretariat for Internal Affairs.

Tension Mounts in Pakrac Following Flag Order

AU0304180091 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Zeljko Mandic report from Pakrac on 3 April]

The situation in Pakrac is becoming more aggravated and threatens to become a serious situation. Flags of the Serbian Democratic Party, flags with the old Serbian coat of arms, and in some places, the flag with four S's have been put up in some Serbian villages.

In the morning some of the flags were removed in Pakrac, for example, those at the Pakrac Medicine Center and the Urosevac Stadium, but due to the presence of a large number of so far unarmed citizens, police forces equipped with bulletproof vests and armed with automatic rifles have not managed to remove those at Gavrinica, near the town, although they had tried several times.

Although the policemen have withdrawn and are not there at the moment, the situation is extremely tense and serious because of an increasing number of citizens gathering at Gavrinica. We have been told by those citizens that during the day, the flags will be placed in all villages with a majority Serbian population. The people there claim that they had been told by the police that the

order to take the flags down was given by the Pakrac Communal Assembly President, Milan Bozic.

Glina Croatians Refuse Krajina Incorporation

LD0304215191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1650 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Zagreb, 3 Apr (TANJUG)—"Representatives of the Croatian population from the Glina municipality have informed President of the Croatian Government Josip Manolic that the Croatian people do not and will never recognize the decision of the municipal assembly of Glina of 31 March, according to which Glina municipality is seceding from the Republic of Croatia and joining the so-called Serbian autonomous region of Krajina. Because of this, the Croatian population in the municipality of Glina has adopted a decision on founding a community of Croatian local communities in the municipality and remaining a part of the municipality of Glina and the Republic of Croatia," it was announced after today's meeting of President of the Croatian Government Josip Manolic with a delegation of Croatian local communities from the municipality of Glina. [passage omitted]

The delegation was also received for short talks by the Croatian Minister for Internal Affairs Josip Boljkovac and his deputy Slavko Degoricija.

Serbian Opposition Negates Belgrade Report

LD0304194391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1847 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, April 3 (TANJUG)—The representatives of opposition parties in the Republic of Serbia parliament today withdrew their signatures from the report of the parliament's inquiry board on the demonstrations staged by the opposition in Belgrade on March 9.

The debate on the report, which was to be the main agenda item, opened in a very tense atmosphere. A decision was taken, however, to resume the debate after a discussion about deputies' questions and to answer them, for which 50 deputies applied.

One secondary school student and one policeman were killed and 203 persons injured in the March 9 demonstrations in Belgrade.

The Serbian parliament's inquiry board, made up of eight deputies of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia and three opposition representatives, has established that the tragic developments on March 9 occurred because the organizers of the demonstrations did not respect the ban on public gatherings in the city's centre and because the police did not manage to keep matters under control.

Slobodan Vuckovic, opposition Democratic Party's representative on the inquiry board, said today that the inquiry board's report was written by ruling Socialist Party deputies. Vuckovic explained that the opposition representatives, who were in a minority, "only amended the document or softened formulations" in which he said the demonstrations were described as "destructive" and were said to have been organized under foreign influence, or according to which the deployment of army units in Belgrade was indispensable.

The Serbian parliament is to discuss also the resignation offered by Republican Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic, who is held responsible for the tragic outcome of the March 9 demonstrations by the opposition and Belgrade students.

Slovene Delegation on Talks With Kosovo Parties

AU0304195591 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] After visiting the Albanian alternative movements in Pristina yesterday, the Slovene legislative delegation held a news conference in Ljubljana. D. Kosaric reports:

[Kosaric] Although one news conference was already held in Pristina last night, today we heard some new conclusions and stands. As reported earlier, the delegation obligated itself to suggest to the top republican leadership not to recognize the replacement of Riza Sapundziju from the SFRY Presidency as legitimate, which in fact means—if the Slovene leadership accepts this— that Janez Drnovsek should boycott the work of the federal Presidency.

According to its answers at the news conference, the Slovene legislative delegation was not bothered by the Albanian alternative movements' decisive stand to resolutely reject the possibility of living within the Republic of Serbia.

Former Slovene communists have invited two opposition parties, Albanian of course, to take part at a roundtable conference in Ljubljana devoted to democracy and the freedom of the press. Ciril Ribicic resolutely condemned, as he put it, Serbia's anti-Albanian policy in Kosovo.

When your reporter asked why this Slovene delegation failed to make any contacts with the official authorities, as well as parties of other peoples and nationalities living in Kosovo, something that would undoubtedly add a neutral aspect, Setinc replied that, according to the new constitution, the position of the Serbs and others should be talked about in Belgrade.

The impression has nevertheless remained that there was no intention to establish the state of facts nuetrally from a distance, but that this visit had a solely political nature, something that could have negative consequences for bilateral relations between Serbia and Slovenia.

Weapons Reportedly at Bosnia-Croatian Border

LD0304161391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1514 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Sarajevo, March 3 (TANJUG)—Member of the executive board of the Democratic Action Party (SDA) of Bosnia-Hercegovina Ismet Hadziosmanovic told reporters in Sarajevo today that his party had reliable information that "trains carrying armored tanks" are waiting on the republic's border with the Republic of Croatia.

The SDA rallies Muslims in the central Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, where it is the strongest party. Hadziosmanovic said the party has information that the tanks should be moved towards Croatia, but declined giving their exact locations.

Hadziosmanovic, who held his news conference on the occasion of deteriorating relations between the Serbian population in the Republic of Croatia and the republic's authorities, assessed that all events taking place in Croatia also reflect on relations within Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Concerning events in Croatia, the leadership of the Socialist Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina today issued an appeal to the general public for peace, tolerance and dialogue. The party said that "a civil war cataclysm" was now threatening Yugoslavia more than ever in its post-war history.

The appeal said the events in Croatia, which began with clashes at Plitvice on Sunday morning, showed the "impossibility of creating solely one-nation states in Yugoslavia" while contradicting the interests of all peoples innabiting this country.

Leader of Macedonian Communists Steps Down

AU0404113391 Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 31 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] At its session yesterday, the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Macedonia-Party of Democratic Transformation decided that the party's 11th congress should be held in Skopje on 20 April. The session also adopted the documents that will be discussed at the congress: The Draft Report on the Work of the League of Communists of Macedonia-Party of Democratic Transformation and its bodies between the two congresses; the Draft Program Declaration; the Draft Statute of the Party; and the draft proposal that the new name of the party be the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia [Socijal-demokratskiot sojuz na Mekedonija].

The Central Committee also accepted the explanation by the current president Petar Gosev of why he was stepping down as candidate for this post. Petar Gosev thanked the members of the Central Committee and its presidium for the successful cooperation and support extended during the pubic debate in the basic and communal party organizations.

The Central Committee also adopted a list of new authorities that will be elected at the congress. Branko Crvenkovski was endorsed as the only possible candidate for the president of the party.

Government Cuts Planned Wheat Exports

LD0304142291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1225 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, April 3 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia will, according to a federal government decision, export 200,000 tons of wheat instead of 500,000 tons, as was planned earlier.

Federal Agriculture Minister Stevo Mirjanic has told journalists that of the 300,000 tons, 200,000 will be used for the production of fodder, while the remaining 100,000 tons will be bought by the Federal Directorate for Commodity Reserves.

Since a part of the wheat will be used for fodder production, the government decided that only those who have already contracted to buy corn, will be able to import it.

The import of some 100,000 tons of corn has so far been contracted. Under an earlier decision, Yugoslavia planned to import 510,000 tons of corn.